

This Old House

Best-ever
curb appeal
before and
afters

p. 76

52 Quick Fix-it Tricks

- > remodeling money savers
- > how-to problem solvers
- > DIY shortcuts



PLUS

27 great
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upgrades

The easiest way
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Foolproof
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with WD-40
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{ March 201

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A photograph of a man in a red shirt working on a wooden project at a workbench.

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SHOPPING

on the cover





2011

Give your plain-Jane cabinets a dash of vintage style by installing decorative grilles on the doors.



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PHOTO BY JEFFREY BROWN FOR THIS OLD HOUSE; STYLING BY KAREN HARRIS; DESIGN BY TROY ELLIOTT; REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE MARCH 2011 ISSUE OF THIS OLD HOUSE MAGAZINE



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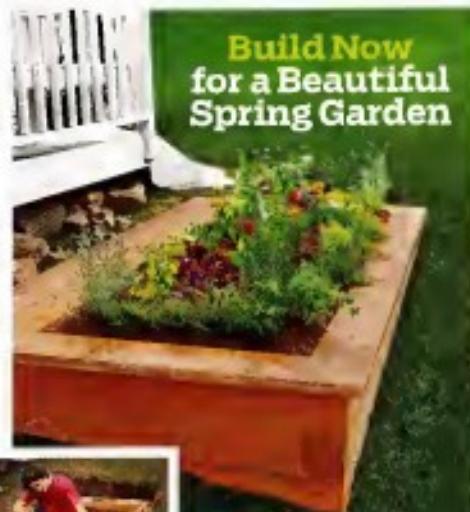
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Flower Bed

Create a Cold Frame
for Veggies

Put Up a Trellis for
Climbers

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LUMBER
LIQUIDATORS

letter { from This Old House }

If only my reality were a TV show

Another day goes by, another year. I don't have my remodel finished. I'd be happy if it weren't happening to me—or if the reason my honest contractor held back the sunset were to have his first surprise.

But it is happening to me, and the contractor does have a very real and life-altering avoided problem, which, of course, only makes the situation that much more...complicated.

Yet, however known things become, blueprints' type—no matter how long it's on my walls—does not become artwork. The missing piece of molding I don't notice after three years is still just as missing, by definition. And using a pair of Wise-Grips to open the shower on and off while waiting for the valves installed, though invasive, eventually goes rusty.

It's enough to make you realize how fortunate we're all. Or where a blessing has been visited upon the families who appear on the *This Old House* television program. In fact, you end up in love of the lack of desire and concern for professionalism that Tom Silva and his crew exhibit in finishing the remodel of a whole house in just the few short months of a TV season. There's no better example of that than the photo in "Gard of the Field," the big wrap-up story we've got of the show's latest project. You'll find it on page 65. You know what I mean when I look at those pictures I have a sign that says, *I should be an actor*.

Now don't get me wrong, on the inside my place looks (mostly) pretty good, if you can overlook the examples above. It's the outside that's all the real problem. Sure, it's weathered and doesn't appear really condemned, but the sidewalk is broken, the wrought-iron stair railing needs paint, and the hicks need repairing. Remodel money only goes so far—in our case only to partially the front door—before it runs out, so the house looks what and more a garage like to tell each other. At least anything like the homes we've financing in "Be the Beat on Your Block," on page 76. Click them out. You gonna get to work on my own exterior as soon as I have my third—one is it fourth?—contractor.



3 THINGS I LEARNED FROM THIS ISSUE +

1. **How a master of toothpaste can help you never feel clumsy** [p. 10]
2. **How to turn sea salt and limes into a bathrobe-blanching soak** [p. 60]
3. **How weeding a cool pair of shades can tell you if your house needs a drapé** [p. 93]

Scott O'Malley,
EDITOR
scott@thodox.com

readermail

Our recent issues seemed to inspire TOH readers to sit down and share their thoughts and latest accomplishments with us. Below, a sampling: a horsewoman who finds being stuck indoors all winter a great opportunity to update interiors; an astute safety reminder; and a colorful Reader Project from the handweaver of an Arkansas couple.

Indirect Interpretation

My life revolves around riding my horse outdoors, so with the snow and cold weather, I am pretty cranky about being in hibernation in the house. Your magazine has changed all that! The information is inspirational, easy to read, personal, and flexible. We have a 1930 Ambassador that needs care and ideas that are written my way [I'm not very handy, but I do like to paint], not just the ones I will hand off to my husband to keep him busy in his workshop during the winter. By offering so many ideas at your website for further information, you make even the shortest days exponentially in value.

me as a female reader with projects and ideas that are within my grasp. [I'm not very handy, but I do like to paint; not just the ones I will hand off to my husband to hang here they're his workshop over the winter.] By offering so many links to your website for further information, you make even the short articles exponentially in value.

So thank you, and I reserved my husband's subscription (Sigh!—it's really for me!).

— MAREN DALL'AMORE,
OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA



Painted wainscot

REFERENCES AND NOTES

I have been an avid TCM reader for years. I save the papers when I see an idea or a project that I think will work well for our 2009-2010 year. Here is my most-revised project, as you can see. Here I did the work myself, as my husband is not handy with paint or tools. My next project will hopefully be the kitchen—however, when I mention this to my husband, his eyes glaze over...

Classification

useful tips were provided by “JB” and “Derry Trucks” for the DFT designs (Deserow 2010). However, I believe you need to clarify which number 13, “Tarnit” and its code lines? “I am a certified fire protection specialist and have been involved in loss prevention specialists as well as a volunteer firefighter for over 40 years. Elego you did not say that electrical cables, either on cords, or anything electrical can run under the carpet. This is an extremely hazardous practice, as the cables can become worn and overheated, even if used for the distance they are attached to.”

Editor's note: Our top two must-dial mobile phone lines, not electrical wiring or cords, beat your power with consistency. **B&B** Thanks.

sections

- The actual product information:
the tin ceiling shown on page
November 2000, is 2 by 8 foot
masonite panels in #2410
Grey Nessapepe pattern.
#240 Hammered Fiber in mill finish
00400 Durashield sonotube in tall
M-Gloss, view reference.com

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checklist

(March 2011)

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Get your garden going

Once the threat of frost has passed, nudge your garden back to life. Prune damaged spots from trees and shrubs, and fertilize roots. When the soil softens enough to crumble in your hand, sow seedlings. Not sure you've seen the last of the cold? Try hardy pansies (above), which thrive in sunny plots, or primroses, which do well in shade, to add early color to your yard.



What's on your checklist?

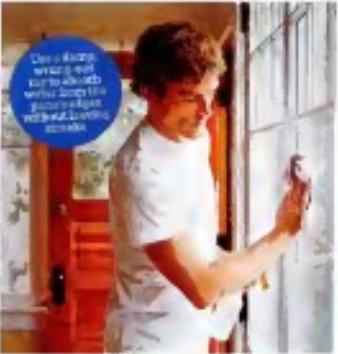
• If I'm bringing old kitchen cabinets, left over frames, recent wreaths, in the garage for re-sale?

—Dana Rancina,
Oxford, Mass.
E-mail us your ideas at
checklist@thesimplehouse.com

Give windows a good washing

As the days get longer, don't let grime obscure the sunlight.

- For crystal-clear glass, sponge on then squeeze off soapy water. Use horizontal strokes on one side of the pane and vertical strokes on the other to make streaks easier to spot.
- Buff out small scratches with toothpaste.
- To remove paint specks or sticky labels, dampen and sponge off with a plastic razor blade. Find more cleaning tips at thisoldhouse.com/window.



Does a room need a fresh coat of paint? Check the paint store for a free sample.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com/stockphoto.com; Bottom right: © iStockphoto.com/stockphoto.com

TOH TIP

Dim the lights

In honor of National Napping Day (March 16), install energy-friendly dimmer switches. Just cut the electrical current to an incandescent dimmer switch. Then connect the dimmer's leads to the old switch's wires with wire nuts. Dimming to the wall switch takes a well-earned rest!

Photo: © iStockphoto.com/stockphoto.com

Tune up yard tools

Maintain your garden gear in ready-for-action condition with these tips: (1) For hand tools, used clamped wood handles and coats with tung oil to prevent cracking. Reinforce rust by soaking metal blades in strong black tea, then rubbing with vegetable oil and steel wool. (2) Use a recycle pump to soften your whelk larvae stores, and spray WD-40 onto ingenuity cables.

- (3) Lay your garden hose out flat so that it will be more pliable when you're ready to start watering.



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home solutions

Edited by Jessica Dodiell-Parker

INSIDE

SURPRISE CLEANERS

10 USES

TOUGH WORK BOOTS

MORE



SMART IDEA

Screened-in cabinet

Imitating the vintage charm of old midcentury cabinets and porches, decorative grilles offer the perfect way to punch up plain cabinet doors. When installed in a bathroom, they're also highly functional. Here, the grilles help obscure towels and toiletries while allowing air to circulate.

Inspired to install your own grille? First, consider your cabinet doors. If you have glass panels, as the homeowners of this bath did, you can pop them out; if you have wood, you'll need to use a router to cut away the panel, working from the back of the door. Then simply insert the grille, securing it with zip-style ties (or small strips of wood or turn buttons). You'll end up with a cabinet that's eye-catching and is useful.

A top choice: Etched steel panels (available online at [brownstonehardware.com](http://www.brownstonehardware.com)); \$8 each (for square holes).

BROWNSTONE HARDWARE INC./PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY L. HARRIS



in high humidity spaces, and for lightweight decorative inserts which aren't load-bearing.

ceramic tile

Every tile project seems to result in leftover squares, shards, and odd-off-cuts. Before you turn to the trash, consider these smart ways to reuse them.

1 Line shelves.

Lay tiles flat on shelves to create a solid surface for small items that could otherwise slip through the openings.

2 Rebuild a tabletop.

Bundle blossoms of various colors in a fabric bag and use whenever you break them into small pieces. Spread mache onto a tabletop; let set, then glaze between the tiles to create a mosaic.



4

+ Display your address.

Using stenciled and acid-etched enameled tiles, make brightly hued tiles with your address numbers and route next to an entry door.

5 Design a pattern.

Use tile as a template for a shower-based floor mural. Just trace in rows and paint the squares alternating colors.

6 Use as a trivet.

After a hot pot or kettle runs on a tile to the underside of a table, that's large enough to fit under a hot pad or cloth.



+ Create a portable work surface.

Ever the tip of a hot after run on a tile to protect your table and floor from damage.



10

7 Make a memo pad.

Lay a large tile next to the phone or on your desk. Use dry-erase markers to jot down messages or to do lists that you can wipe away when you're done.



8

8 Edge a plant bed.

Glue tiles to one side of a cedar board using



construction adhesive.

Buy tile spacers around a plot so that just the tiles stick out to create a border that doubles as a low-mowing guard.

—SARAH STAPLETON

9 Keep counters clean.

Set white resin to the slow while mixing soap for drying cooking utensils.



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STORAGE

Outdoor built-in

No budget? No problem! Don't have the room—or budget—for a shed? Consider building a cabinet like the one reader Lynn Boughey did last year, Brooklyn, Michigan. "I needed a place for gathering supplies that also had the ugly winter materials and equipment kept outside our entry," says Lynn. So she created the space below her front porch steps.

The construction is basic and it's an easy weekend project, while shallow upper cabinets keep dry items at a safe height.

Reported that a wire

is all that was used to support the panels.

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green, and ready-to-

build in just a few hours.

The project cost less than \$300 and took a week—and worth it!



HOW TO

Sharpen a shovel

Cut through soil and roots with less effort by keeping digging tools like your spade sharp. First, clamp the shovel to a workbench so that the *concave* side of the blade faces up. Wearing heavy gloves and holding a mill bastard file, push it upward along the edge of the blade. Lift and repeat. Follow the original bend; if it has worn off, tilt the file at a 45-degree angle from the shovel's face. Once the blade is sharp, flip the shovel over and make a few passes with the file to remove the resulting burr on the underside. —JULIA HADICK



HOME BUSTERS

Surprise spring cleaners

Messing and breaking odds aren't the only party that you may see in your fight against household dirt. Check out these four other ways to clean with items you may already have around the house.

—KATHLEEN ROBERTS

Rusty wiper
Eliminate dust and dirt from antique furniture without marring fine finishes by rubbing with guarda frances—a white

Oven cleaner
Combine 1/2 cup baking soda with a white enamelware cast-iron tub with a coat of oven cleaner. Let sit for an hour or two then scrub with steel wool.

Ketchup Polish away rusty nail spots in a copper sink by wiping on this concoction, which acts as a mild acid, and spongey elbow.

Nail polish remover
Soak everything from paint splatters to tile stains from limestone floors by adding a few drops of an acetone formula to a rag and spot cleaning.



Photo: GENE KARLSON FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; COURTESY OF KELLOGG'S; COURTESY OF KELLOGG'S; COURTESY OF KELLOGG'S

GARDENING

Wildflowers for quick color

Give your yard a pick-me-up by planting wildflowers. Historically simple to grow, these blooms can add up to a variety of colors, particularly a little sun and occasional watering, and often flower in as little as five weeks. To make things even easier, opt for a pre-mixed selection of seeds native to your area. *Americana Meadows* ([americanmeadows.com](http://americanameadows.com)), *Seedland* (seedland.com), *Verde* (verde.com) and *Simplicity* (simplicityseeds.com) offer pre-picked regional blends of annuals, biennials, and perennials for brightening gardens from California to Connecticut. —JULIA



PRODUCTS

Hardworking boots

What you'll need: your favorite work clothes. They'll keep you warm, protect your feet, and keep you comfortable. Here are picks for the job.

1 All-terrain style
Rubber toe of the Thorogood Conquest Pro (\$120) is reinforced to withstand the extreme conditions of a steel-toe boot, yet it's still light and flexible.

2 Flexible fit
Rubber toe of the Thorogood Conquest Pro (\$120) is reinforced to withstand the extreme conditions of a steel-toe boot, yet it's still light and flexible.

3 Lightweight protection
Thorogood's Thorogood Pro (\$120) weighs less than 1.5 pounds and features a mesh upper. It's made of the same leather as the Conquest Pro, but its lighter sole and flexible toe make it more comfortable for smaller jobs.

4 Ergo boots
The ergonomic design of the Thorogood Thorogood Pro (\$120) is designed to reduce fatigue and increase comfort. It's made of the same leather as the Conquest Pro, but its lighter sole and flexible toe make it more comfortable for smaller jobs.

5 New classic
At less than \$70, the men's Thorogood Ranger (mens.thorogood.com) is a solid addition to the job site. It's made of the same leather as the Conquest Pro, but its lighter sole and flexible toe make it more comfortable for smaller jobs.

—KATHLEEN ROBERTS



Which wood glue where

If you've ever been stuck when it comes to choosing the right adhesive for a wood project, you know how confusing all the options can be. There are glues that dry instantly, glues that must be moisture-wetted, glues that shouldn't never touch water, glues that won't work at certain temperatures—and you pick the wrong one, you find it's too wet! To help, we rounded up some common bonding situations and the glue solutions, all of which deserve a spot in your toolbox. —D.E.

Cracked flowerpot

Glue to use: Yellow polyvinyl acetate (PVA). A slurry is strength from white and yellow (other) PVA. It has water-based adhesives create a strong bond between materials.

How to fix: Gently hold surfaces and clamp them together for at least 30 minutes. Soak in full strength PVA for 2 hours. If this doesn't work, repeat immediately without using clamps.

Cost to try: Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Glue (\$4 for 8-ounce containers) elmers.com

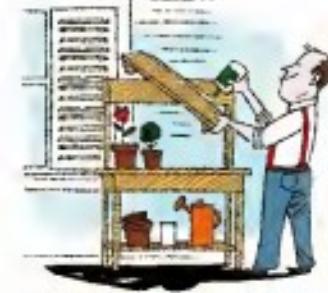


Broken potting-bench shelf

Glue to use: Water-resistant PVA. Fix broken slats to other yellow PVA after it's applied water, as it works well for light outdoor projects. In most cases it's so effective that the wood will not need to be sanded before the glue dries.

How-to tips: Apply a thin layer to both ends, then clamp for 30 minutes. Leave the joint alone for 24 hours until the glue cures.

Cost to try: Elmer's Wood Glue (\$7 for 8-ounce container) elmers.com



Loose chair armrest

Glue to use: Polyurethane. This adhesive sticks to wood, metal, and even old glue. Whenever possible, water it regards so it cures during the weight room in loose parts.

How-to tips: Thoroughly clean the armrest and chair's armrest with rubbing alcohol. Then add a thin coat of glue to the other side, clamp for up to 24 hours. Clean up spills with paint thinner.

Cost to try: Elmer's Glue (\$5 for 8-ounce bottle Polyurethane E-1) for 8 ounces; homedeal.com



Joints on straw-grade molding

Glue to use: Biodegradable PVA. This glue has the same formula as yellow PVA with the addition of wood fibers. The result is a biodegradable that accepts stain.

How to fix: First, test how well the glue accepts the stain by staining a scrap. Then apply it to the joint. Use a putty knife or the edge of a straight saw to align the卯es, securing them with clamps or binding aids for 24 hours. The plan is to soak it off after about 24 hours.

Cost to try: Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Glue (\$4 for 8-ounce containers) elmers.com



Splintered fence pocket

Glue to use: Two-part epoxy. Most bonding is to sun and the elements. This adhesive is good for about 500 degrees F. It's rigid, gaps, and cracks will not enclose solvents.

How-to tips: Using the glue, rub the hole of up to 1/8 inch. Wear gloves and clean up drops with acetone.

Cost to try: Loctite Epoxy Quick Set (\$4 for 0.88 ounces); homedeal.com



Louise Lee, homedeal.com

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Lipitor is backed by over 18 years of research.

Talk to your doctor about your risk and about Lipitor. Learn more at lipitor.com or call 1-800-LIPITOR (1-888-547-4867).

Please see additional important information on next page.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: LIPITOR is not for everyone. It is not for those with liver problems. And it is not for women who are nursing, pregnant or may become pregnant.

If you take LIPITOR, tell your doctor if you feel any new muscle pain or weakness. This could be a sign of rare but serious muscle side effects. Tell your doctor about all medications you take. This may help avoid serious drug interactions. Your doctor should do blood tests to check your function before and during treatment and may adjust your dose.

Common side effects are diarrhea, upset stomach, muscle and joint pain, and changes in some blood tests.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-3382.



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IMPORTANT FACTS



LIPITOR
atorvastatin calcium
extended-release

(LIP-i-tor)

LOWERING YOUR HIGH CHOLESTEROL

High cholesterol is more than a number; it's a risk factor that should not be ignored. If your doctor tells you have high cholesterol, you may be at increased risk for heart attack and stroke. But the good news is, you can take steps to lower your cholesterol.

With the help of your doctor and a cholesterol-lowering medicine like LIPITOR, along with diet and exercise, you could be on your way to lowering your cholesterol.

Ready to start eating right and exercising more? Talk to your doctor and visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

WHO IS LIPITOR FOR?

Who can take LIPITOR:

- People who cannot lower their cholesterol enough with diet and exercise.
- Adults and children over 10.

Who should NOT take LIPITOR:

- Women who are pregnant, may be pregnant, or may become pregnant. LIPITOR may harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant, stop LIPITOR and call your doctor right away.
- Women who are breast-feeding. LIPITOR can pass into your breast milk and may harm your baby.
- People with liver problems.
- People allergic to atorvastatin or LIPITOR.

BEFORE YOU START LIPITOR

Tell your doctor:

- About all medications you take, including prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- If you have muscle aches or weakness.
- If you drink more than 7 alcoholic drinks a day.
- If you have diabetes or kidney problems.
- If you have a family problem.

ABOUT LIPITOR

LIPITOR is a prescription medicine. Along with diet and exercise, it lowers "bad" cholesterol in your blood. It can also raise "good" cholesterol (HDL-C).

LIPITOR can lower the risk of heart attack, stroke, certain types of heart surgery, and chest pain in people who have heart disease or risk factors for heart disease such as:

- Age, smoking, high blood pressure, low HDL-C, family history of early heart disease

LIPITOR can lower the risk of heart attack or stroke in people with diabetes and risk factors such as: bad eyes or kidney problems, smoking, or high blood pressure.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LIPITOR

Serious side effects in a small number of people:
 • Muscle problems that can lead to kidney problems including kidney failure. Your chance for muscle problems is higher if you take certain other medicines with LIPITOR.

• Liver problems. Your doctor may do blood tests to check your liver before you start LIPITOR and while you are taking it.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- Unexplained muscle weakness or pain, especially if you have a fever or feel very tired.
- Abdominal pain including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, under breast, that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing which may require treatment right away.
- Stomach, vomiting, or constipation.
- Brown or dark-colored urine.
- Feeling more tired than usual.
- Skin rash and the whites of your eyes turn yellow.
- Allergic skin reactions.

Common side effects of LIPITOR are:

- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Upset stomach
- Changes in some blood tests

HOW TO TAKE LIPITOR

Do:

- Take LIPITOR as prescribed by your doctor.
- Try to eat healthy foods while you take LIPITOR.
- Take LIPITOR at any time of day, with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. But if it has been more than 12 hours since your missed dose, wait. Take the next dose at your regular time.

Don't:

- Do not change or stop your dose before talking to your doctor.
- Do not skip new medicines before talking to your doctor.
- Do not give your LIPITOR to other people. It may harm them even if your problems are the same.
- Do not break the tablets.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Ask your doctor or health care provider.
- Talk to your pharmacist.
- Go to www.PfizerAnswers.com or call 1-888-LIPTOR.

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June 2009

Be sure



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before + after:
kitchen

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PHOTO BY JEFFREY D. LINDNER FOR ELMER'S



before The kitchen had an antique feel but was cramped and cluttered.



Reloading a kitchen allows for more space and light; attention to detail gives it an inviting vintage look. BY DEBORAH ALDWINCH - PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW COOPER

Period style, up-to-date function

When two people undertake a major redo, some negotiating is required. When Morris and Andrea Choi, owners of a 1909 house in Seattle, shared a vision of a colorful kitchen opening onto a porch, But he wanted a wood floor and cabinets with clear glass fronts, while she wanted no-fuss flooring and linear transparency. They compromised with pale laminate and frosted glass. Working with designer Kim Clemens, they negotiated other challenges, too, including the missing joists in the ceiling and the missing joists under the floor. When a wall came down—as part of the scheme to have the kitchen and the family room made plains—Clemens realized ceiling beams had to go back up in a convincing old-house way. Details like arched railings to match ones on the porch also make the new space “feel like it has a heritage,” she says—with antiques, of course, including a gas fire threated outside to feed Morris’s grill. The移的 success reflects “a great partnership,” he says, and on that, the whole family agrees.

before The kitchen had an antique feel but was cramped and cluttered.

after Morris’s renovation the Choi’s is a day-and-night family friendly French-style home.

Colorful towels provide a splash of color for essential vintage boldness.

before + after kitchen

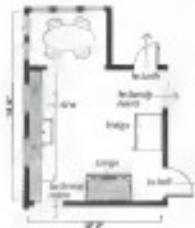
⁴ The existing range and hood are now complemented by a stainless steel backsplash, stainless steel range top, and custom-made finished with a display shelf and wood grain panels.

4. The instrumented arch over the swing seats permits precise analysis and the measurement of the swinging motion's deflected ceiling. That's why it's called the Acoustic Purple (purple) and Tapetastic (tapetastic). Rose (Orange) is Deep Blue (sophisticated).



before

и в 1940-х годах неоднократно подтверждено.



- after

Dates selected, expanded to 264 square m total, and joined to a group. The space is narrow and big enough for an existing plant to be isolated — and plenty of family and friends.



- 2** Placed
An Island
at the Center
Providing one
solution.



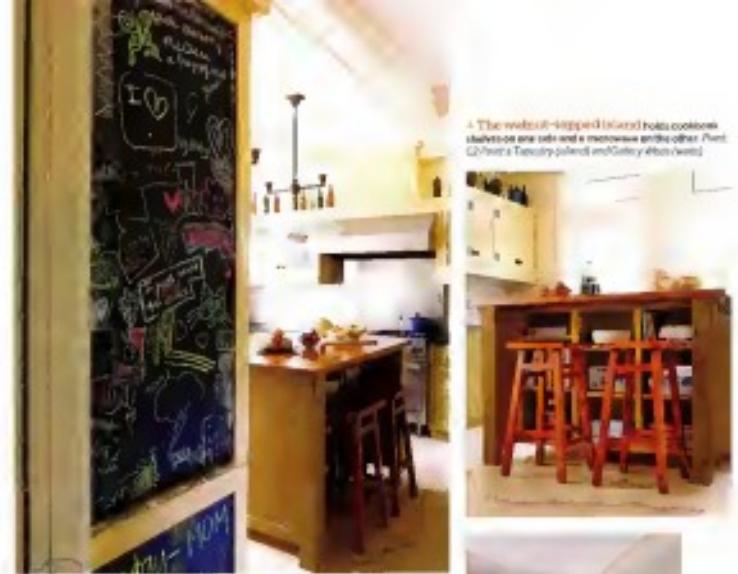
- 4. Flanked**
the range with
outbreaks and
extended the distribution
range of range and
range areas.

5. Built-in seating nook, a pantry and a sight line to the

- 5.** Built-in seat
eating monk,
a quarry and a
right line for the
new filling them
for better flow
and function.

A magnetic chalkboard near the entry to the family room serves as a message pad and message center. Magnetic chalkboard film (Safety Liquid Epoxy) from **Regalco** (800-448-2323).

+ CD-ribbed
lycose
Mingo Johnson,
and puts us into
2000s. A newness
about which
the present has
lost, though
Requiem
Felix Gómez &
Chamorro's
cabaret band
Cheat
Duo 100000



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A bath remodel for only \$439

Creativity and four gallons of paint go a long way in transforming a makeshift space

BY NANCIE ROBERTSON • PHOTOS BY ROBINE BLUMENFELD

Even in long-hand remodels, some spaces cry out for prompt design action. For Roeland Summersfield-Bailey, her bathroom, that space was the first-floor bath. Located between a home office and the family room, it's the most trafficked of the 1927 bungalow's three baths and two powder rooms. But when Roeland, her husband, and their two daughters moved in, it sported bare drywall and gray carpeting.

Two years in, with a full redesign of the kitchen, Roeland decided to make the space "less overwhelming." Refinishing everything from the plywood subfloor to the original oak fixtures with paint, she updated the bath over four weekends with a gray-and-white palette and low-cost touches, such as a three-light vanity fixture. "It was supposed to be a temporary fix, but I love it. And now we can focus our energy on bigger projects," says Roeland. ■

before: The bare-bones bath lacked some finishing touches. **After:** The door leading to the white-walled shower looks like a choice for the new laundry space. (Left) paint: Benjamin Moore's Eggshell Powder and Perfect



+ The painted floor delivers the look of hand-tiled tiles at a fraction of the cost. After sanding and applying the plywood subfloor (\$10/m²), the owners applied paint and stencils to create the design. Three coats of polyurethane ensure it holds its painted finish. Paint: Benjamin Moore's Eggshell; Benjamin Moore's Smoky Granite



+ Spray paint and lacquer against \$200 towels (\$100) for \$20, avoiding the need to replace the sets or shell out for costly single-top replacements.

How'd you save on a redo?

With a little creativity and a good paint job, it's easy to make a small bathroom look like a million bucks. Check out these budget-busting ideas.



+ Extending the stripes over the shower walls adds no additional cost to the existing tiles (AFTER). With a simple wide-milky-wave shower valance, the design looks punchier.



the project tally:

Painted the ceiling	\$0
Painted and stained the ceiling, door, trim and baseboards (left over from previous projects)	\$0
Mounted a three-light fixture over the sink (IKEA)	\$23
Book-matched chevron wood paneling (IKEA)	\$40
Painted the floor with an eggshell coating using sea turtle stencil; 4 gallons of white paint; underlayment; gray paint	\$40
Sanded the floor with three coats of polyurethane	\$15
Green-and-striped wallpaper (look with Zoffany) and paint	\$82
Hung a small vanity mirror	\$15
Painted pedestal sink (IKEA)	\$25
Replaced missing tiles (IKEA)	\$10
TOTAL	\$439

3439



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Spring-loaded cabinet latches

Nostalgia for hardware with vintage style? These little latches will add a big dose of character to your cabinetry. BY CHARLOTTA BLUMHORN • Photography by MICHAEL BURGESS

Whether you're done for a latch or need a quick face-lift, adding latches is an easy way to inject a bit of period style. First appearing in Victorian-era kitchens as elaborately detailed brass or cast hardware with holes that actually slot into place, these cabinet-door catches were paired with equally ornate brass pulls. The Industrial Revolution brought spring-loaded mechanisms that allowed them to smoothly click into place with the push of a thumb. In the early 20th century, when we now consider the classic version—plain, nickel-plated, with an oval knob—comes into vogue, and latches started appearing into virtually every room in the house.

Today's models cover the gamut of designs and finishes, all sure to bring vintage charm to new and old pieces alike. Just remember: For the two parts to make proper contact, a latch must be mounted on inset doors that sit within a frame. Here, 18 of our favorites:



the classic

REINFORCED
Metal or Plastic latches with a polished nickel finish
Size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" H
Try it: On upper cabinets with white flat-panel doors. Its generous size, low to the bottom, should also cover holes from previously installed knobs. \$33, reinforcedhardware.com



aged scrollwork

MONTON STYLING
Metal or Plastic latches with light antiqued finish
Size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" H
Try it: To add historical appeal to antique hutch or server cabinets with a well-worn look. \$12, montonhardware.com

overseas craftsman

OLYMPIA HARDWARE
Metal or Plastic latches with white oil rubbed bronze
Size: 2 1/2" x 4 1/4" H

Try it: As a classic finishing touch to a simple, rustic media center or TV base, its unique 70-degree angle will look just right. \$16, olympiahardware.com



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pro tip **REINFORCED CUPBOARD DOOR TIPS**

To determine latch placement, make three tick marks to divide your cabinet into four equal parts, top to bottom. On upper cabinets, mount the latch on the lowest tick mark; for base units, close to the topmost tick mark.



thrown a curve
ARTWOOD
Model #1: Cast brass with a polished nickel finish
Size: 2½" W x 1½" H
Try it: On painted cabinet doors where its unusual shape needn't call attention to itself. \$16, artwood.com



neo-colonial
HANOVER
Model #1: Cast brass with a black powder-coated finish
Size: 2½" W x 1½" H
Try it: In a simple cottage-style kitchen, it's easy to believe this other-worldly handle will stand out. \$22, hanover.com



warm touch
TOP DRAWERS
Model #1: Forged brass with a Tuscan bronze finish
Size: 2½" W x 2" H
Try it: On dark or shiny cabinets or as a nod to traditional Mediterranean style. \$20, topdrawers.com



satin simplicity
TOP DRAWERS
Model #1: Cast brass with a satin platinum finish
Size: 2½" W x 1½" H
Try it: On light-colored solid-wood cabinetry paired with brushed nickel hardware, pull out the drawers. \$12, topdrawers.com



diamond shape
TOP DRAWERS
Model #1: Cast brass with an oxidized finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: An upgrade on classic mission furniture. \$20, topdrawers.com



fancy flagstone
HANOVER
Model #1: Cast brass with an oxidized pewter finish
Size: 2½" W x 1½" H
Try it: In a vintage rock kitchen or bathroom, it's perfect for ceiling or backsplash and unique as a soap dish. \$10, hanover.com

Designer
TOP DRAWERS
\$40.00
On sale at
dickinsonhardware.com



t & ball twist
DICKINSON HARDWARE
Model #1: Cast brass with an aged nickel finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: As a spin-off to set off a rustic cabinet or bathroom fixture. \$20, dickinsonhardware.com



leaf motif
KODAK PHOTO STUDIO
Model #1: Cast brass with an antique finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: As a complement to a rustic one or your favorite leafy green. \$20, kodakphoto.com



exposed toggle
CRAFTSMAN
Model #1: Cast brass with a polished nickel finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: As a sleek accent on a top-of-the-line media cabinet instead of chrome knobs. \$60, craftsmancabinethardware.com



TANGO-SIMPLY
CRAFTSMAN
Model #1: Cast brass with a brass knob
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: On a modern or contemporary cabinet, where its large size and bright brass will make a statement. \$25, craftsmancabinethardware.com



wild-aged
TOP DRAWERS
Model #1: Forged brass with an antiqued hammered finish
Size: 2½" W x 1½" H
Try it: In a symmetrical style like yours. Unlike most, the wide oval doesn't sit in the back-and-forth between the back-to-back slides. \$20, topdrawers.com



graceful shape
TOP DRAWERS
Model #1: Cast brass with a tapered finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: On a classic-style piece of furniture, the oval's gentle curve will complement the item's architecture. \$20, topdrawers.com



brass beauty
HANOVER
Model #1: Cast brass with a polished brass finish
Size: 1¾" W x 1½" H
Try it: On classic-style cabinets, its shiny surface reflects light for extra appeal. \$12, hanover.com



basketweave
HOUSE OF ANTIQUE
Hardware
Model #1: Cast brass with an antiqued pewter finish
Size: 2½" W x 2½" H
Try it: On a dark wood cabinet piece where its intricate pattern will brighten up. \$20, houseofantiquehardware.com

Designer
TOP DRAWERS
\$7.50-\$15
On sale at
dickinsonhardware.com



well-rounded
CRAFTSMAN
Hardware
Model #1: Cast brass with a zinc finish
Size: 2" W x 2½" H
Try it: On a dark wood cabinet piece where its circular form will brighten up. \$20, craftsmancabinethardware.com



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A side-front three-quarter view of a silver Ford Explorer SUV. The vehicle is parked on a dark, reflective surface, possibly asphalt or polished concrete, under low-light conditions. The car's headlights are illuminated, casting a glow on the ground. The background is dark and out of focus.

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Shrub pruning dos and don'ts

Not sure how to shape up the shrubs in your yard? Here, proper pruning fixes for five common problems

If the thought of cutting down what looks like a perfectly happy plant makes you cringe, you're not alone. Landowners who know the benefits of pruning—better health, more pleasing forms, bigger flowers—are often still confused about exactly the right time and right way to make the cut, fearing they'll strip next year's blossoms, stifle the plant's growth, or kill it outright. But once you understand how plants respond to pruning, you'll realize how simple problems are well placed cut solver.

The first step to successful pruning is timing it right. Shrub that flower on new wood, or branches that form in spring and flower in summer—such as lilacs and azaleas, for example—should be pruned in late February or early March. This results in fewer but larger flowers the first year. "Pruning distributes the plant's stored energy among fewer flower buds so that the ones left behind get more to eat," explains horticulturalist Lee Reich. Pruning spring-flowering shrubs right after they bloom, giving them the rest of the growing season to develop new branches and buds, saves these blooms on old wood, or last season's growth. "But if you miss the ideal time to prune, you can always wait until the shrub's flowers brown out," says Tom Old (Home Landscape contractor, Memphis, Tenn.).

Successful pruning involves investing two basic cuts. Turn the page to learn how to use them to remedy common problems you encounter.

got an outdoor space
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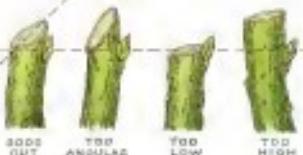
Want to start a new landscaping project? Visit www.homedepot.com for products and ideas.



pro advice

RYOBI COOK, TIN LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR
"To deal with a wayward evergreen branch, be sure to cut it back to the center of the shrub, where it meets another stem. If you just top off the offending section, the cut stub will be obvious and ugly."



**1. Problem:** You've inherited a sloppily shaped shrub.

Do: make selective cuts by removing a poorly pruned shrub by stimulating new growth where you want it and removing aged, less vigorous wood. Cut back more quickly when made in the right spot and at the newest wood with a sharp, clean tool. Find a branch with a bud facing the direction you want new growth to follow. Prune just above that bud at a 45-degree angle, with the lowest point of the cut flush from the bud.

Don't: leave more than ½ inch of growth above the bud, as this can encourage new cutting. Cutting too low can cause the bush to dry out, and cutting at an angle greater than 45 degrees can create a large surface area that's slow to heal, inviting disease.

**2. Problem:** You've got a shrub that's leggy at the bottom.

Do: use heading cuts to spur growth in the right direction. Unlike thinning cuts, which remove a branch, heading cuts shorten a branch down to a bud you want to encourage to break out. Thought seems counterintuitive, you need to prune the shorter side of a legged-out shrub to stimulate growth and even it out. Position the pruner on the part of the shrub you want to remove; just above a bud that will grow in the direction you want to encourage.

Don't: trim more than one-quarter of a shrub's overall length in any single cut. For shrubs that are dramatically legged, use thinning cuts to remove older wood from the longer sides as well as heading cuts on the shorter side.

Illustration: J. L. Thompson

**3. Problem:** Your shrub has dense foliage at the top but looks like a tumbleweed below.

Do: open up the plant with thinning cuts. Just thinning back branches, either with manual pruners or electric shears, results in dense foliage at the top of a shrub and a tangle of weak, brittle branches at the center. Thinning cuts remove whole branches down to the base or take off large sections of branches back to a main stem, allowing light and air to reach the center of the plant and encouraging healthy new growth throughout. Remove the thickest, oldest wood first before moving to younger stems. Don't remove more than one-third of a plant's mass in a year, to keep it vigorous and looking good.

4. Problem: You've got an old shrub that's a woody, tangled mess.

Do: give the plant an overhaul by thinning out the old wood over the course of three years, making room for all new growth. Starting at the base of the shrub, shorten the centermost branches, taking out no more than one-third of the shrub's total mass. New growth from the base should follow the next growing season. Remove another third of the old wood at the base in each of your following three. By the end of year three, the shrub should be made up of entirely new, vigorous growth.

Don't: remove more than one-third of the shrub's branches at any one time; this preserves enough foliage that the plant can make sufficient food through photosynthesis to stay robust and generate new growth quickly.



Year 1

Remove one-third of the oldest branches from the base.



Year 2 and 3

Remove another third of the old wood each of the following years.



Year 3

After pruning, light and air can reach the center of the plant.



Year 3

Allow the old wood to die down to make room for vigorous new growth.

5. You have aowering evergreen shrub that's leggy at the bottom.

Do: use a sharp, finger-and-thumb to pinch off the end (or terminal) bud of new branches on rhododendrons, azaleas, Japanese pines, mountain laurel, and other broad-leaved evergreens to encourage side branching on the lower part of the shrub. As with heading cuts, continually removing the terminal leaf bud stimulates new buds below it to grow, stimulating high side branching. This is also key to scaling the shrub's overall size.

Don't: pinch off the flower buds in the process. Shear off the bigger, fatter buds at the ends of branches. ■

**pro advice**

LEE PRICE NEWPORT, NY

"On shrubs that develop a lot of suckers at the base that turn into vigorous stems, such as hydrangea and red-twig dogwood, be sure to prune out old wood each year to accommodate the new growth."

Vinyl picket fences

They corral kids and pets, and give roses something to lean on—without wood's maintenance hassles. Here's how two versions differ in look, feel, and price.

By DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photography by STEPHEN MORRISON

Building fences going up in colonial times, their sharp points reminiscent to keep out the deer. Over the years, they morphed into flat, unpainted stakes and then into decorative white pickets, leaving only the question of how to avoid sharpening them. And that led to vinyl versions, now more popular than ever. Here are two, both U.S.-made in vinyl vinyl. The budget choice has an innovative multi-flush, available in 32 colors, and the high-end one is more solidly engineered. Prices don't include posts, caps or installation, which is key to performance over the long haul.

High-End

New England Fence

NEW ENGLAND SCALLOPED SQUARE PICKET

Dimensions: Up to 8 ft. **Material:** PVC

How It Works: Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is melted into hollow pickets (flats) with pleated vinyl, bottom panels, and printed caps. The outer layer contains flexible plastic to resist warping.

Post wells are relatively thick (about 16 in.) and each one requires 25 shingles.

+\$28
per linear foot

\$11+
per linear foot

IS IT FOR YOU?
If you want a wall-mounted product with a glassy finish.

IS IT FOR YOU?
If you want a flat fence and enjoy a color and high-quality vinyl.

Installation: Preassembled panels snap into individual posts. Posts (\$27 each) and post caps (\$32 each) are sold separately. Posts longer than the panels should not be set directly in the ground but concrete is recommended, especially where or if it needs to be moved.

Installation: Panels are preassembled and snap onto individual posts. Longer than the single panel, Posts (\$23 each) and post caps (\$7 each) are sold separately. Longer (75 mph wind-updated posts) (\$4 each) are also available. The panels are flexible.

Look and Feel: The panels have a smooth, solid feel and fit together tightly, with seams that are less visible and have no gaps. The finish is a solid vinyl.

Budget

Illusions Vinyl Fence

GRAND ILLUSION CLASSIC VICTORIAN SCALLOPED PICKET

Dimensions: Up to 8 ft. **Material:** PVC

How It Works: An ultra-high melt extrusion process is used and the outer layer contains flattened sleeves. It also has a new market ready finish. The standard prints are 16 in. long; thinner five-flats are recommended for high wind areas.

Customer Review #1001		Customer Review #1002		Customer Review #1003		Customer Review #1004		Customer Review #1005		Customer Review #1006		Customer Review #1007		Customer Review #1008		Customer Review #1009		Customer Review #1010	
"Their station is address at work."	Member Report #1001	"We're a cat house."	Member Report #1002	"Don't expect him to negotiate."	Member Report #1003	"No pressure. Just honest and professional."	Member Report #1004	"...the price was excellent given the details involved..."	Member Report #1005	"We're a divorce see only see him when something breaks!"	Member Report #1006	"We're a divorce see only see him when something breaks!"	Member Report #1007	"The company did a great job."	Member Report #1008	"The company did a great job."	Member Report #1009	"The company did a great job."	Member Report #1010
"Fence neighbor'd love."	Member Report #1001	"These employees love what they do and it shows."	Member Report #1002	"Their mothers would be very proud!"	Member Report #1003	"We kicked them out before something else happened."	Member Report #1004	"I wish every home project would go this smoothly."	Member Report #1005	"Absolutely outstanding."	Member Report #1006	"...clean shelves and most professional looking."	Member Report #1007	"Went to smell claim's court - we won."	Member Report #1008	"The service exceeded expectations."	Member Report #1009	"...not the electricity to call if you have pets?"	Member Report #1010
"They had like and did an event job."	Member Report #1001	"They never showed up and never called..."	Member Report #1002	"Received an apology from the owner and gift certificate to dinner."	Member Report #1003	"What a mess!"	Member Report #1004	"They were Johnny on the spot."	Member Report #1005	"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."	Member Report #1006	"They did it in just a couple of days."	Member Report #1007	"They will help you fit things out of your car end side."	Member Report #1008	"I had to hire someone else to redo half the job."	Member Report #1009	"...ever seen bumper the way?"	Member Report #1010
"...they did estimate ... so soon did work."	Member Report #1001	"... they were Johnny on the spot."	Member Report #1002	"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."	Member Report #1003	"They did it in just a couple of days."	Member Report #1004	"They were Johnny on the spot."	Member Report #1005	"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."	Member Report #1006	"They did it in just a couple of days."	Member Report #1007	"They will help you fit things out of your car end side."	Member Report #1008	"I had to hire someone else to redo half the job."	Member Report #1009	"...ever seen bumper the way?"	Member Report #1010
"... couldn't seem more dedicated to the job..."	Member Report #1001	"... they were Johnny on the spot."	Member Report #1002	"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."	Member Report #1003	"They did it in just a couple of days."	Member Report #1004	"They were Johnny on the spot."	Member Report #1005	"I can't believe how great it looks and how inexpensive it was."	Member Report #1006	"They did it in just a couple of days."	Member Report #1007	"They will help you fit things out of your car end side."	Member Report #1008	"I had to hire someone else to redo half the job."	Member Report #1009	"...ever seen bumper the way?"	Member Report #1010
"...you to pay something down, but refused."	Member Report #1001	"Made me feel like I was their only client."	Member Report #1002	"They were here two hours and charged me \$540!"	Member Report #1003	"...make sure you ask for the discount."	Member Report #1004	"We waited almost two weeks for our appointment!"	Member Report #1005	"He treated my house like it was his own!"	Member Report #1006	"They were friendly."	Member Report #1007	"...destroyed...	Member Report #1008	"...no how job is still	Member Report #1009	"...no how job is still	Member Report #1010

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Look and Feel: The panels fit together like puzzle pieces, with more plastic corners and spaces. The material doesn't seem shiny.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 31

get
this look

Colorful cottage kitchen

Vibrant paint and weathered wood create an eating and cooking area that looks comfortably lived in. Here's how to put together a similar space in your home.

BY JESSICA COORLL FISHER • PHOTOGRAPH BY DANA MALLACHER

The kitchen older than a place to dry veggies or cook a meal. In this house in Winter Park, Florida, the room serves as the ultimate family gathering spot, where grandparents claim the stools while puppies play in their feet. To accommodate all the activity, homeowners Jim and Linda Sennikoff opted for well-worn fixtures and rustic furniture that belie the space's relatively young age. "Even though we renovated only about eight years ago, we chose old fixtures, old lights, and old art," says Jim. "We don't worry if something gets mussed up." Bright colors enhance the light-hued white and dove灰度 in the room's custom pieces, including a weathered-painted plate rack and cast-long island. Scrambled! Get cooking with these ideas for your own kitchen. ■

butler's lamp
Pending the right lighting's not just for your desk this polished-brass fixture offers extra illumination for kitchen counters. \$225. dwellstore.com

cabinet and trim paint
Cabi forces you against white walls. Nowhere else. [Sherwin Williams](http://www.sherwinwilliams.com) offers a wide variety of colors. www.sherwinwilliams.com \$100/100 sq ft. [sherwinwilliams.com](http://www.sherwinwilliams.com)

round stool
This simple wood stool from Pier 1 is a snug fit for one more at the table. Give it a aged look by treating the wood with a water-based stain. [pier1.com](http://www.pier1.com) \$42. [pier1.com](http://www.pier1.com)



striped fabric
Add some French flavor to windows with bold curtains. Striped drapery panels, \$199 per yard. [linen.com](http://www.linen.com)



retro drink mixer
Satisfy a thirsty crowd by whipping up cocktails with this vintage-style chrome appliance. \$49. hamiltonbeach.com



painted plate rack
To make the custom piece at left, we used white paint until it's very red paint also brightens the island. Paint rack, \$12. [diynetwork.com](http://www.diynetwork.com). Paint Regal Water Finish in Ryan Red (2124) \$26 per quart. [rustoleum.com](http://www.rustoleum.com)



bistro folding chair
Pier 1's classic design meets with unexpected style in this lacquered steel frame. Seats just as good. In the kitchen as it does in a patio. \$225 for two. [pier1.com](http://www.pier1.com)



bridge faucet
This fixture's style harkens from Tudor. It's long, elegant—and its high neck makes filling large pots a breeze. \$284. [homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)



weathered farm table
The homeowner built this table from old floorboards. This pine option is where similar dimensions add up to \$2,399. [kijaro.com](http://www.kijaro.com)

**what's
YOUR
look?**

budget break
Get a head start on
the new year with
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items. Plus, check
out our budget
calculator to see
what you can afford.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 102

Adding charm with bold color

Saturated shades on the main body pair up with deep accent tones and crisp trim to create a romantic new look. BY ERIN CHAMBERS • DESIGN BY HOWARD DIGITAL



Pick your palette

There are three very different color combinations, each offering its own vintage look. ■



Bold Victorian
Behr's Plum Chutney (1)
Vibrant Purple (2), Perfume Purple (3),
Harvest Gold (4),
Pistachio Paint (5), and
Tenderly, Sheld (6).



Warm neutrals
 Benjamin Moore's Honeycomb (1),
 Tan (2), Powell Burn (3), Coastal
 Fog (4), Texas Leather (5),
 Madison Pine, White (6),
 and Coastal Fog (8).



Earth tones
National Paint French (1), La
Fontaine's Willow Green (2), One
Ceremony's Arden (3), Willow
Bark (4), Cedar (5),
Habitat's Rustica Mocha (6), and
Chateau's Heron (7).

Want a Photoshop® redo? Send screenshots to
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"It's so hard to picture color on your house," says Melinda Sunk of Kent, Ohio, who lives with her husband, Gerald, in this Victorian-era home built by his great-grandfather in 1870. To help, we enlisted architect and color consultant Amy Woo, who assembled three palette-rich palettes to take full advantage of the house's architectural charms. "Purple was a popular color for Victorians, but I chose muted tones that wouldn't be too garish," she says. The darker colors on the first-story grounds the narrow facade while preserving a soft link to the second story. Gold, a complementary color, "enhances the qualities of both purples," she says. Victorian probably would have used a third shade of gold for the trim, but Woo applied the look with a pearl white instead, giving the darker colors a crisp outline. The darks add a little fire. As you can see at right, Woo followed up two-toned door options over all, the idea, she says, is to combine colors of similar intensities. As for the purple, "Wow!" says Melinda. "I would never have chosen those colors myself, but I love them." ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 122

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 - Increased ammonia option and a higher chance of infections. You should avoid exposure to chemicals and irritants, mold, and, if exposed, consult your healthcare provider without delay. Worsening
- *Measured by a breathing test in people taking ADVAIR 250/50 compared with people taking another inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) or a long-acting ICS. Your healthcare provider is not responsible for side effects or adverse reactions even if COPD symptoms appear. See ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 for detailed side effects. **See product information for important safety information. *See product information for important safety information. **See product information for important safety information. ■



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One living room, four great designs

Good bones may define a room, but finishing touches give it style or, in the case of this space, different styles—from classic to contemporary. —HEATHER DODGE FISHER

Blending personal taste with general trends can be daunting—and potentially satisfying. Just check out the evolving setups on the following pages. One room, furnished with basics—a beige upholstered sofa, a leather ottoman, wood carpeting, and an arched fireplace—takes on four distinct looks, thanks to creative combinations of colors, materials, and accent pieces. Classic with classic? Yup, that's shown here, at right. Clean with current paint colors? That's on the fourth page. You want rustic? Read on for other ways to



Charmingly casual
A lightwheated array of stripes and plaid refreshes up the earth tones in this laid-back arrangement.

1. plaid-style patterned walls

The pale palette of

the nature-inspired

wallpaper tones down

the bold print.

—Lori Lefever

The fine lines of these prints and brownish earthy, repetitive themes up toward the room's high ceilings.

2. perky throw pillows

Mustache to

comics patterned?

These easy-to-fit

back-and-white

designs for varying

needs in the same

color scheme.

3. shapely sofa

A slightly rounded

piece

feels dressed-up like

formal wear.

—Lori Lefever

Color items and art with

white or

black-and-white

silhouettes never go

out of style. It's basic

decorating, but

it's storage.

—Lori Lefever

Decorative

print designs

inspire

interesting looks

at Brookhouse

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1. Softly sophisticated. Perch down. Rents in a soft light from the garden prints of lavender and lilac set a soothing scene.



2. pretty-pink walls. Add a shot of subtle color by painting walls the same hue as your accessories—but three or four shades lighter.

3. botanical-print textiles. Incorporate the soft colors of nature into throw pillows, throws and curtains using organic cotton fabrics like Linen or Silk. Lighter purple patterns bring in the room's atmosphere.

4. sleek accent tables. The simple, low-profile look of this mirrored side table is a welcome surprise.

5. big accessories. Introduce lots of statement pieces with chairs in big, bold fabric covering that features a large-scale motif.



Bold and bright. Rich, saturated colors on walls and in fabrics make this refined space a vision of whimsy.

1. jewel-toned walls. This room's highest-end design choice is also one of the simplest: paint is budget friendly—a coat of egg wash goes on the walls.

2. diamond-style textiles. Incorporate matching patterns in pillows, drapes and curtains with geometric tufted throw pillows paired with large plaid armchairs.

3. metallic-table design. Introduce rich glamour by placing a round, silver shade lamp high above the tufted sofa.

4. monochromatic tables. Mirrored, long coffee and end tables provide a sleek base for a whimsical arrangement of vases and plants.

5. checkered armrests. Include a little pattern's plus by pairing it with a unexpected form-based design: armrests of dark brown and grey blue, monochromatic textiles. ■



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Vintage electric lanterns

Hung in a front entry or a cozy corner indoors, these pendant-style fixtures cast a soft ambient light that's both charming and inviting. BY ALICE HORNIGE LARSEN. Photography by ROBERT K. LARSEN

Many hanging lanterns from the first half of the 20th century were hand-hammered, looking as if they'd been crafted by blacksmiths rather than machine.

Dangled from unadorned chains, their iron, brass, or copper cages often had intricate marks, criss-cross, even riveted square ornamentation; those on medieval-looking arms and fixed with mortise-joined frosted- or textured-glass panels, their warm glow complemented the colors of the Craftsman bungalows, Tudor cottages, and even more Colonial Revival houses in which they were most frequently hung.

Popularized by manufacturers of the time, such as Gustav Stickley and the Reprocraft catalog, these cage lanterns exemplified a back-to-basics design sensibility. They were the antithesis of late 19th-century Victorian chandeliers cast from glistening brass, with highly ornate and overblown arms.

Though lanterns were sometimes hung indoors in a foyer, study, or





shop smart: Find unbroken lanterns with frosted or textured glass panels for as little as \$50 but often just few dollars higher quality vintage or mission-style lanterns, such as the green-stained glass one shown, start at \$100.

second-floor stair hall, they were used widely used outdoors to illuminate a home's entry.

That's because before the advent of electricity, paraffin candles or oil lanterns were hung set outside beside the door to guide the way from house to barn or carriage, says Jo Sullivan, historian for Rehoboth, which sells antique and reproduction lighting. "They had the inherent quality of welcoming you to a place that the late, hanging electric version also share."

Today, you can invite guests to "come on in" by passing back and serving a vintage lantern like the amber glass one that I found at a salvage yard (see inset, right). To keep costs down, search for a lantern that you can clean up and rewire yourself. It can may cost over you get the parts. Read on to learn my favorite strategy for DIY lighting step-by-step plus find the how-to on creating an "as is" vintage lantern with a space for your everyday. ■

what do you salvage?

Many old homes feature a mix of architectural styles. If you're lucky, you'll find a lantern in your home that's in good condition. If it's not, consider replacing it with a new one.



STEP-BY-STEP

Rewire an all-weather lantern

When I found mine for help finding a replacement for the modern flush mount fixture that used to light the entry to her 1900s cottage (below), I set out in search of a vintage-hanging lantern that would better complement her home's architecture. I picked up this century painted steel lantern with amber glass panels in need of TLC for \$89 at a nearby salvage yard. Standard restoration services cost about \$250. I then called the price at Grand Brass Lamp Parts (grandbrass.com), one of the few remaining manufacturers of reproduction antique lighting parts, to order the wires, switch or globe, socket assembly, chain, and decorative ceiling canopy I needed to get the old lantern looking good and glowing again.

Checklist for the lantern: \$47 for the replacement parts
Time: 3 hours
Difficulty: Simple. Just pick apart what you don't already have the tool.

1. Assemble the socket housing. Thread the end of a hollow-tube screw (like a poppet) onto the metal cap that comes with your parts kit. Insert the screw into the hole at the top of the lantern's socket housing. Slip the brass socket housing over the other end of the screw, no threads.



2. Secure the housing and ground wire to the lantern. By inserting the protruding end of the screw into the hole at the top of the lantern, slip the ground wire's ring over the screw and twist on a locknut, no threads.



3. Prep the wires. Rubber-insulated lamp cord comprises two wires joined at the center; strip them apart and use a wire stripper to strip 1/4 inch of insulation from each, revealing bare copper.



4. Connect the wires. First check the insulation. The neutral wire that wraps around the socket's outer screw has ridges. The hot wire, which goes against brass screws, is smooth. Wind the wires clockwise and tighten the screws.



5. Fit the socket at the housing. Inserting the cord through the socket's supplied insulation ring and through the screw and locknut, secure the socket to its metal cap by tightening the screw. Insulate the socket.



6. Attach one end of the chain to the lantern's loop on the lantern and the other end to the loop attached to the ceiling canopy (not shown). Use pliers to open and close the links.



7. Thread the cord and ground wire through the chandelier. Into the canopy's hollow screw that connects to the fixture's mounting hardware. Now back up the lantern (turns here at the old house's base/basis) and admire its resilience.



get the parts list

See the online resource to order insulation, lamp cord, hardware and more.

Wood hamper

Stretch the tulle plastic liner for a neater green-up laundry container. —JENNIFER SIMPSON • Photography: ROSSITTE LARSEN

Let's face it: a plain hamper isn't the most popular gift you'll ever give. But that's no excuse for using a tired old canvas bag or an open-top basket to wrap up dry goods. We were pleased to find lots of hamper with furniture-like details on the market—so much so that it inspired us to make a hamper similar to the one shown here. The top end makes use simply stock headboard plywood finished with lacquer material. For the hamper's base, we scavenged up a scrap piece of regular plywood. If you don't have one, you can buy headboard material.

The straightforward design here is very flexible. You can print or reuse the finished pattern, cut plain plywood instead of basswood for the sides, add a handle to the lid, swap cup hooks for laundry bags—the options are limited only by your imagination. Use the exact size of this side-table carabonite to help you build it, and when you’re done, double-check to make sure none are sticking out because the Wind has fury on your new bumper in your wardrobe.

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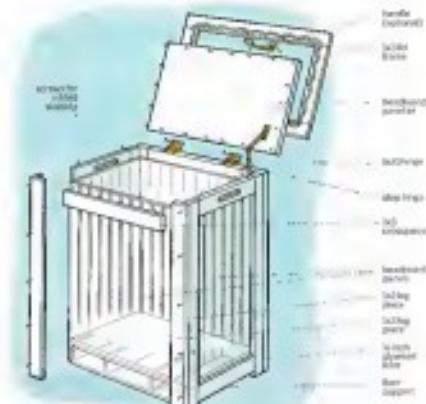
The parts are simply glued and nailed together, so the project moves quickly once the pieces are cut.

- L... Get the pieces. Cut parts to size and make two timeline cutouts per the oval label at the [scholastic.com/teachit](http://www.scholastic.com/teachit) site.*

2. Glue the legs. Remove the edge of a 1x2 leg piece to the face of a 1x3 leg piece. Tuck with its edge, to form one L. Repeat to make four legs.

- 3.** Attach the pants and torso supports. Secure front and back panels to the back sides of the 2x3 leg plates. Zipper from front to back. Secure side panels to the back sides of the 2x3 leg plates. Secure front supports between the front and back panels.
- 4.** Trim the hanger and insert the torso. Secure crosspieces so that the lower arms sit flush with the bottom of the panels and the upper arms with the handle cutouts sit flush with the tops of the legs. Drive screws at an angle through the top edges of the upper crosspieces and into the legs. Secure the adjusted leg in the floor supports.

5. Assembling and attaching the lid. Secure the lid's short frame pieces between the long frame pieces. Secure the panel to the frame. Attach the lid to the tray sides with brass butt hinges. Add a screw hinge on one side. ■



- buy it

Beadboard is just one option; there are many looks to choose from.

5414

This well-preserved specimen is a tetrapod-like larva from the Lower Cambrian of South Africa. It has a segmented body, a large head, and a long, segmented tail. The body is covered with fine, dark, transverse stripes. The head features a large mouth and a pair of prominent eyes. The body is divided into several segments, each with a pair of appendages. The tail is long and segmented, ending in a pointed tip.



99

mid-range
The sides and top are made from thin strips of wood that are woven together to form a decorative lattice screen.



199

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Go for the bold

With an updated open floor plan, a rich color palette, and vibrant textiles, the latest TOH TV project house goes from dark and dreary to bright and cheerful.

BY KIRUTHI PANDIT AND DEBORAH BISCHOFF • Photography by ANTHONY TIGLIU



BEFORE: Stained heavily pine around the fireplace looked heavy and dark. TOH: Red walls, updating window trim after a dynamic rework for the remodeled living room.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY TIGLIU

Remodeling is no task for the timid—especially if you've briefly lived in your home before taking the plunge. Take a fast-track new-builders Alison and Russel Skinner, owners of the latest *This Old House* TV project, just fine. Before buying their 1946 Colonial Rambler in Andover, Massachusetts, the couple asked their neighbors for ideas on updating it. "Surprised more than a year later, they're living in the sunny, colorful home of their dreams, courtesy of the TOH TV crew and a design team that understood and respected their couple's vision," says TOH general contractor Tom Silta. Read on to see how daring decisions like these paid off.



Playing with color: Pumpkin walls and a vibrant rug add personality to the lower-level family room (ABOVE), but they're not the only thing. "It can be a challenge to see different colors in one open floor plan without making the house look chaotic," says Melissa during the project's redesign. Shifting wall panels, deep bonus doors that block access to the photo at left, where a red living room and green study meet, the remodel rooms and beyond. "These changes compartmentalize other areas yet create the spaces feel distinct."

BETWEEN
With a doorway
between the
kitchen and dining
area, and a nine-
foot peninsula
separating space
from the rest.

— addition



THIS PAGE
TOH TOH Thatchaway
INTERIOR DESIGNER
Kathleen Powers
INTERIOR DESIGN OF THE KITCHEN,
BATH, AND SUNROOM

BEYOND THIS PAGE
KITCHEN DESIGN
Kathy Powers
INTERIOR DESIGN
Melissa Sillers
CONSTRUCTION Myleen Frazee

PHOTOGRAPH BY
CHRISTOPHER STOWERS



A tidy dining spot: The table (ABOVE) stayed in the same place, but the arched opening to the kitchen was widened to fit a larger square to improve traffic flow between the two rooms. "The dining room table is now centered in the opening, which makes for a much better layout," says Sillers.



THIS PAGE
INTERIOR DESIGN
Kathy Powers
INTERIOR DESIGNER
Melissa Sillers
CONSTRUCTION Myleen Frazee
BETWEEN
INTERIOR DESIGN
Kathleen Powers
INTERIOR DESIGN
Melissa Sillers
CONSTRUCTION Myleen Frazee

For cooks and eaters: The old kitchen was nice and isolated from the rest of the house (LEFT FORE), but the arched opening to the kitchen was widened to fit a larger square to improve traffic flow between the two rooms. "The dining room table is now centered in the opening, which makes for a much better layout," says Sillers.

— addition



Places to gather: With the living room and sunroom sharing an exuberant palette (LEFT), the Sherman family sits at a table for reading or writing with their kids and guests. "We're virtual people," the open-thatched playfully admits, "and we have the sunlight powers, I believe," says Brown.



YESTERDAY'S
wooden cabinets
were painted
white; custom
cabinets were
painted red.
BIG REDESIGNING
The Sherms' kitchen
was gutted and
rebuilt by
Weston Kitchens
& Bath; the sunroom
was gutted and
rebuilt by
Architectural
Associates.

LIGHTING
Windows feature
Weston Kitchens
& Bath's
Precision Shadefit.



Before

You, this is a basement: Once dominated by a cavernous sectional (BEFORE), the wife-cut basement is a closed-in room that now includes a TV room and an area for playing games and reading or crafts (AFTER). The children more reluctantly leave the sitting room and playroom.



A big curb-appeal boost: The existing house's facade from decades ago was ugly (BEFORE). Architect Harriet Oberlin (far right) suggested a couple of big cuts to refresh its appeal and draw attention to the new paved entry. A small window above it was highlighted to this effect. The final touch: a classic neutral color scheme, with a red door that hints at the livelier spaces beyond. ■



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 102



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weekend
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Install a Lincrusta wainscoting

The textured, tough-wearing wall covering has stood the test of time.
By ROSEMARY GARDNER • Photography by ROLAND MOTTI

Years ago, visitors to Grand Ole Opry, just a short drive from the show's home in Nashville, could buy a piece of Lincrusta. In an 1890s drawing room at the Victorian-era hotel, the surface wall covering was a popular addition to speech houses, including small-kid rooms in major cities like the White House and the John D. Rockefeler house. Popularized in England in 1777, Lincrusta has had the same two-tone style—A-flock (flock and wood-grain patterns) and other ornamental products to add texture to fibers that enhance a surface's grain—the durable yet flexible wallcovering's value as for walls in high traffic areas that hide wear—or for rooms in which no decor lasts, such as along a theater's redwood ceiling. Mark Twain's famous Librarian parades past and gives thanks for a well-done job that highlights his bookshelves.



For complete
instructions,
turn the page



Cost: About \$40 per linear foot

Time: 15 hours over three days

Difference: Lincrusta has it need to be prepared (and painted) when making cuts and matching seams.

WALLPAPER
LINCUSTRA
WAINSCTON

www.rolandmotti.com

Day-to-day timeline

FRIDAY Lay out the placement of the panels and attach the liner to the walls.

SATURDAY Cut and install the panels and prepare them for painting.

SUNDAY Paint using light the panels, and attach the chair rail.

tools

- 4-foot level
- panel saw
- breakaway utility knife with extra blades
- metal ruler or straightedge
- smoothing tool for liner
- scrubbing cloth for panels
- 4-inch chip brush for adhesives

materials

- leather paper
- painter's tape
- line level
- heavy-duty drywall tape
- primed vinyl wallpaper adhesive
- water-based adhesive for panels
- odorous mineral spirits

Photo: Steve Gandy; Illustrations: Michael S. Lewis; Styling: Linda L. Johnson; Prop Styling: Linda L. Johnson; Production: Linda L. Johnson; Art Direction: Linda L. Johnson; Photography: Steve Gandy; Prop Styling: Linda L. Johnson; Production: Linda L. Johnson; Art Direction: Linda L. Johnson

1

1. Lay out the panels and install the liner

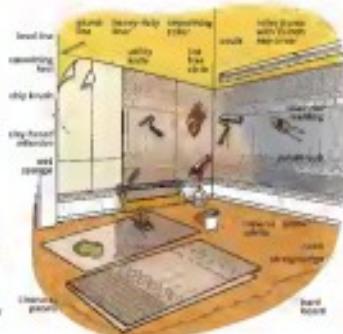
A. Offer a level line and divide it up. Reinforce baseboards, splices, and protect floors with level paper. Measuring from the baseboard, use a pencil to mark the top edge of the wall so that we'll stabilize the chair rail. With a level measure the line around the room. The top edges of the panels will follow this level line, assuring they'll be plumb. Next, just below the level line, use a pencil to mark where the edges of the panels will fall along your baseboards. Don't lay the placement left or right as needed so that the panels won't end up at corners or around moldings or baseboards. That's a mistake.

B. Attach the liner to the walls. Measure the lengths of one wall and add 4 inches. Cut strips of liner to this length (you'll need two strips if the wall is taller than the liner is wide, as was.) Brush adhesive onto the back of the first strip. To keep the paper softer, hold it like wallpaper until the adhesive is fully bonded. Once set, place the liner on the wall, aligning its top edge with the baseboard and its side edges horizontally so that the two 4-inchches of liner are lined up. Firmly smoothing tool over the liner to remove air bubbles, moving from the center outward. Place the second strip below the first, butting up to the first. Use a utility knife to cut off excess liner at each end, and smoothing the baseboard. Repeat for the remaining walls. Allow liner to dry overnight.

Tip: To help you determine the panel layout, use a length of wood to act as a stand-in to see how the panels will look at the corners.



PHOTO: STEVE GANDY



2. Prep the panels

A. Cut the first panel faces. You'll position the first panel next to a corner or against other wall edges, such as a door casing. Use the level to mark a plumb line where the side of the first panel will sit. Then, measure the distance between the plants this marks to the corner or molding. At the top and bottom, transfer these measurements to the panel, marking sure to align the left and right edges with the plants. Use the right edge you will cut with the corner or molding. Use a utility knife, guiding it a six-inch blade, to slice the panel to size.

B. Wet the backs of the panels. Use a sponge soaked in warm water to wet the back of the first panel. There should be enough water to run across the surface of the wood substrate off the fiber. Use a paintbrush to apply water to the remaining panels for the first row. Lay the panels back to back, with the wet surfaces facing, and set them aside for 20 to 30 minutes. This will allow the material to expand slightly before installation, preventing the panels from buckling at the seams once they're placed.

2



8

3. Install the first panel

A. Apply adhesive. Wipe excess water from the back of the panel with a clean, dry cloth. Start from the panel's center, with the grain of the wood running vertically. Use the back of the brush to apply it more evenly at the edges.

B. Place the panel. Align the top edge of the panel with the level line and press it into place. The top edge of the panel should sit on the plants line. The edge you cut should sit at the corner or molding.

C. Remove air bubbles. Use the smoothing tool to press out bubbles beneath the panel, working from the center outward. Wipe the edges and low, wet areas of the panel with a clean, damp cloth to pull away small imperfections. Remove excess adhesive, and flatten out the panel on the wall.

3



Tip: To minimize surface cracks, don't stretch or flex the drywall. Panels may move more than shown here. Small cracks and imperfections can be filled later with acrylic paint, which hide them even further.

see how
it's done
Watch a video
at [familyhandyman.com](http://www.familyhandyman.com)

4. Cut the bottom to fit

- Mark the cut line.** Use a pencil to mark the height of the baseboard and a side of the panel.
- Trim away the excess.** Use a piece of cardboard behind the baseboard panel, resting it against the wall as shown to create a hands-free cutting surface. Align the bottom edge of the drywall tape with the marks on each side of the panel. Use a utility knife and a straight blade to score and cut the material at the marked side. Press the bottom edge of the panel onto the wall, and smooth it down with the roller and a clean, damp cloth.
- Install the additional panels.** To fit the last panel of a run into a corner, repeat the procedure for measuring, cutting, and applying, as in Step 2A.



Tip: If you don't have a plane of hardboard handy, use a kitchen cutting board as a baseline instead.

5. Finish installing the panels

- Trim the corner.** Measure the cut-off of the last installed panel. Transfer this measurement to a plumb line attached to the corner on the next wall run. Only remove an amount of material necessary to accommodate the cut-off on the plane line, trim the panel, holding the utility knife at a 45-degree angle. This trimming will take down the cut-off edge but not allow it to stick into the corner, creating a tight seam with the adjacent wall.
- Put up the remaining panels.** Keep installing panels as described. To make cuts at notches or recesses from the level line and plumb-sides of the last panel installed, transfer the marks to the next panel, and carefully cut away the material. Allow the installed panels to dry for 24 hours.



5



6. Prep the panels for paint

7. Paint and finish the wainscot



- Clean the panels.** Wearing protective goggles and rubber gloves, use a soft cloth dampened with odorless mineral spirits to degrease each panel. Paint will not dry right if the panels are dirty and allow them to fully dry before painting.

- Fill the corners and joints.** Use a thin bead of caulk in the corner joints along the baseboard and at each corner to keep the panels flat; you can apply a small amount to fill gaps, cracks, or larger holes in the panels themselves. Use a clean, damp cloth to smooth the caulk and repeat as necessary.



7

what have you built?

You should begin again in our exciting new section, featuring your favorite products from Home Depot's hardware stores across the country.





Curb appeal essentials

- A well-landscaped yard: Walking through your yard is like walking straight to the street; attractive curb appeal can make the world to your door look and feel like an asset.
- Leaded-lighting: This adds instant curb appeal to your exterior. It creates a winning first impression of your home from the sidewalk.
- A covered entry: Plug up a entry porch with simple landscaping, the slates can set blues or off-white entrance.
- Shingle-style roofline: Keep a sharp eye on every shingle roofline in top condition to add more texture, and polish to your front exterior.

- A refinished exterior wood: Staining, painting, or applying a fresh coat of paint can make your roof's weathered exterior look like new again.
- New windows: Grab attention with shutters and frameless windows and white diamond-patterned glass for your deer.

Be the **BEST** on Your Block



See how a gussied-up front entry, fresh paint, and some simple plantings can transform your home's exterior into the envy of the neighborhood

Here at *This Old House*, we believe that a handsome front facade ranks right up there with a solid foundation and good bones.

Sure, there's the satisfaction you get in showing passers-by that you indeed you've got a gem on your hands. But more important, it's about appealing details such as cherry blossoms, a crisp white fence, and eye-catching shutters create a welcome sight for you and your family to come home to each day.

On the following pages, see nine stunning exterior transformations, including some from fellow readers whose houses were among the worst-looking in their neighborhoods. Through smart investments and effort, sweat equity, their diamonds-in-the-rough soon caught up to—and even surpassed—the rest of the block. Read on to see how these are done, as well as other inspiring homeowners did it.

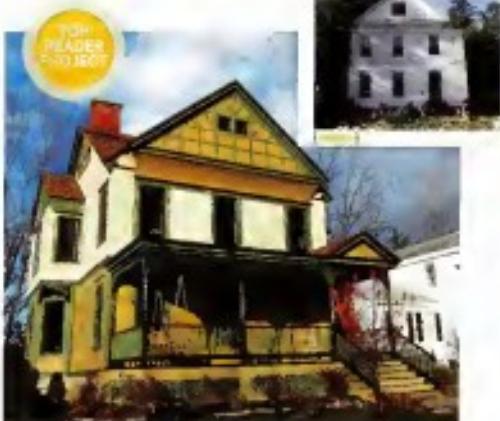
Focus on the details

The "stidework" on the front gable and the elegant Arts & Crafts stilets enticed neighbors Michael and Aaron Rort to buy this 1908 Stick style house in upstate New York. But the mismatched paint scheme (BEFORE) hid the details that anyone standing more than 5 feet from the facade. The sheared-off front porch also made for an uninviting entry.

Paint: A true color palette emphasizes the home's architecture. Pale yellow on the fish-scale shingles and between the eaves overhangs below and on the front gable distinguishes the eaves. Two shades of green make the trim and sidelights stand out, while dark cranberry accents add pops of texture and color.

Entry: Working off photos the owners rebuilt the porch adding a nod-to-the-villa design of the arched lattice railing. Other touches include a hand-carved ceiling, turned porch posts, and copper-based corner brackets.

Roofing: New asphalt shingles with gradient colors evoke cedar shingles and preserve the home's traditional style at a reasonable price.



Restore a historic palette

This 1870s San Francisco Queen Anne's decorative features were lost in a wash of white (BEFORE). Vinyl painter Eric Buckler helped bring them to the forefront with a modern take on the Italianate palette of earthy greens, browns, and blues.

Paint: Two new colors enliven the facade. Gray brown on the body sets off the green on the trim. A soft green band atop the projecting bays and surrounds the recessed panel motif under the eaves and second-story windows. The paneled moldings are stark, giving the recesses a ochre. "Such warm colors are like Tabasco sauce. Sprinkle just a couple of chips and you have good taste," says Buckler.

Roof: Two coats of emulsion-colored acrylic paint were raffled onto the worn cedar roof shingles. In addition to tying into the new color palette, the paint added as many as three more years to the life of the roof.



BEFORE: PHOTO BY SCOTT WILHELM; AFTER: ERIC BUCKLER



100 READER PROJECTS

Spruce up with a porch and new siding

Before homeowner Scott Wilhelm got his hands on it, this 1895 Colonial Revival in Old Lyme, Connecticut, sported "faux-lead" siding, with vinyl siding, a slab-style steel entry door, and a dull concrete stoop (BEFORE). His improvement included changing where there was none.

Stoop: A new bluestone walk leads from the driveway to an E-hast-deep porch, where Scott now enjoys his morning coffee. On graphite PVC clad wood porch posts and AZEK rails never need repainting, and snap-on metal nosings on the recessed porch's teak cap will withstand the pressure of the footfall by the porch.

Roof: Scott replaced the bland beige vinyl siding with rich navy-blue Fiber cement on the second-story bayside and the sides of the house. He used cedar shingle clapboards just on the portion of the facade that's offset by the porch. "From 5 feet back, you can tell the difference between the two materials just on the porch studding, the home's a traditional flavor."

Door: A thin-lined door with glass panels and a divided light window creates vintage appeal. Its brushed nickel hardware coordinates with the sconces that flank the door and the house number on the porch.

Windows: New energy-efficient double-hung windows replace the drafty originals. For a more substantial look, Scott built out the first-floor latice with AZEK trim.



**TOP
READER
PROJECT**



[BEFORE]



Make a red-carpet entrance

This home in Hanover, Maryland, had been in Kenneth Berens's family since 1884. But by the time Kenneth inherited it, the lawn was a dirt pit and the home's exterior a shambles from its former self. (BEFORE) With a bit of sentimentalism and lots of sweat equity, he not only restored the home's old splendor but also added new sparkle.

Sandblasting: A power-brick blast never hurts; it's like a scrubbed bath to reveal an appropriately aged look. Like artwork on white walls, layers of patina and bright blooms — in the front porch's wisteria plants at the base of the porch, and in hanging baskets — add welcome doses of color.

Roofing: A new white metal covers the borders of the ribbon porch and provides a neutral palate for the roof, giving the space distinction. Made of PVC, they require little maintenance.

Siding: Kenneth replaced dingy asbestos-sided clapboards with bright white vinyl that shines like the street.

Roof: New gray asphalt shingles replaced朽ing cedar shingles, creating a well-groomed and weather-tight caper for the house.

Door: Kenneth built the pane door himself. Its carved divided lights and bright red hue draw the eye to the entry.

Windows: Divided-light double-hung replacements keep weather at bay. Muntin-framed shutters frame the window openings and add symmetry to the facade.



**TOP
READER
PROJECT**

Lighten up the landscape

When a grey garden feels like a grey lawn, a lackluster lawn (BEFORE) detracted from this home's curb appeal. By reworking the landscape and brightening up the paint, the owners of the new Colonial cottage have new reason to smile each time they stroll the driveway.

Landscape: By clustering plants with similar colors, the homeowner transformed their impact with lush waves of cherry rose, purple, and red. Gauzing down back below the line of the meeting trees, lavender willow sways out from the purple, and they soften the look at the stark black concrete walkway. By planting both sides of the driveway, the homeowner reclaimed a portion of their property that previously appeared to belong to the neighbors.

Paint: Hand-painted black shutters now framed by a painted slate-green hue that complements the soft gray siding. A vibrant orange door echoes through flowerers in the front courtyard.

Refresh the front

When Greg Cormier bought this 2051 Cape Cod, its black-and-white color scheme made a forgettable first impression. (BEFORE) He goals: Make a statement with cheery plants and paint.

Landscape: Replacing dry, hedgeless shrubs with shrubs and evergreens of varying heights. A red-leaf Japanese maple adds three-season color; salvaged granite pavers set off the walkway.

Siding: Greg peeled back the old vinyl to reveal light-colored board-and-batten shingles. They needed only a good cleaning before patches to repair minor paint.

Paint: A sunny yellow body-color makes behind the white trim crisper, clean, and de-emphasizing the house's boxy shape. Blue paint on the new salvaged shutters and on the window boxes highlights these architectural accents.

Entry: A fiber-glass column replaces a pair of unattractive lattice panels, making the porch a focal point. Painting stained steel low-maintenance flue pipe door to resemble natural wood and adding an entry handle set and screens, both in a natural bronze. To cap off the classic look,



[BEFORE]



PHOTO BY JEFFREY L. HARRIS FOR REMODELING



[before]

Clean up a charmer

When Joe and Betty Lambright moved into this early-2000s oak Victorian in St. Paul, it was so overgrown that part of the house was hidden (BEFORE). By clearing away the brush, they revealed a pretty front porch, new glass windows, and a transom-topped front door.

Exterior: In place of the overhanging arbor that was blocking the house, the Lambrights cleared flower beds filled with smaller, older shrubs and calla lilies. Using annuals allows Joe and Betty to rotate in new colors and shapes, constantly refreshing their home's exterior.

Entry: After demolishing a nearby wheelchair ramp, the Lambrights began rebuilding the front porch; its floor was refinished, but they preserved the original posts and rail spindles. They replaced the concrete steps with century-old salvaged bricks.

Paint: A pale green body-color emulates the old vinyl-clapboard siding. Rich red paint on the window frames and shutters makes them pop against their creamy white casings. Striped sanding and varnished, the original wood door takes center stage.

Roof: Early 1900s architectural shingles, which are thicker and more textured than the standard three-tab type, replace worn green ones.

[after]
[READER PROJECT]

Make more with less

A two-story portico with a massive pillar, gauzy window shade and this suburban 1903 Minneapolis home look like a Midwestern porcelyn. Wanting a more traditional aesthetic, the new homeowners swapped out the top panels for ones with Mission-style Craftsman styling.

Entry: The existing porch came down one level with a raised pediment that allows sunlight to filter through an arched window above the door. By extending the first-story roofline, the homeowners gained a porch.

Garage: A double-wide carriage door with divided light windows and recessed paneling turned an eyesore into a focal point. The extended eaves accented with decorative bracketed eaves tie.

Windows: Removing the legs bones above the first-story windows softened the look of the trim. A row per of second-story windows creates symmetry with the existing windows above the porch.

PHOTO BY ERIN STONE FOR REMODELING TODAY / STYLING BY JENNIFER LEE



[before]

Reorient the entry

Blurry stairs, one main entrance, and an enclosed side entrance to the porch obscured the front of this 2006 Colonial Revival in Minneapolis, putting the focus on the driveway (BEFORE). Working with local architecture firm Shervill Design & Company, the homeowners expanded the entry, making it the focal point.

Entry: A single porch now wraps around the side of the house opposite the driveway, shifting attention to an area formerly hidden by privacy. Painted porch posts flank wide stone steps that lead from a new walkway to the front door. **Railing:** The homeowners kept the original cedar rail setting, which sports wide beams on the first story and narrower ones on the second. It's a graduated effect that draws the eye all the way up to the dramatic corner windows punctuating the eaves. **Shutters:** A traditional color for Colonial Revivals, painted the siding and boosts the home's classic appeal.

Windows: Two pairs of casement windows on the second story replace the isolated combination of three windows on one side and three on the other. An oval accent window centered between the casements creates symmetry with the dormer directly above. ■

got curb appeal?

Want a new exterior look? Consider these tips for curb appeal:
Paint: A fresh coat of paint can make your home look like new.
Windows: New windows can brighten up a dark exterior.
Roof: A new roof can add years to your home's life.

Unseen from the street,
a seamless addition allows
a Victorian-era house
to gain more light, better flow,
and a family-friendly
open plan



inside job

by Deborah Baldwin

photographs by Ken Gutsche
produced by Cateia Sosulin
styling by Sarah Alba

Sometimes the very things that make a house irresistible can also make it hard to live with. Consider the Queen Anne parsonage here. In 2004, more than a century after it was built, its formal rooms and period details had become, attracting the attention of a couple in search of a well-preserved Victorian. But when the operative word is formal and the time is now, there is bound to be a rub. After years of living with a dark kitchen, a tiny master bedroom, and no place for friends and family to gather spontaneously, the couple—parents of kids now ages 9 and 11, and frequent hosts of free-flowing, rambunctious parties—longed to bring the house up-to-date.

They knew just where to begin: in back, where the Queen Anne's gables jutted visibly. Indeed, when the house was built in 1896—the first on the block near San Francisco's Presidio—it proudly faced the street while turning its back on the swimming yard. Subsequent owners converted rear porches into rooms with few windows,

"Otherwise, the classic San Francisco house has a disconnection to the garden," says architect Alex Wilson, who was brought in to help merge the house into the 21st century. That's especially true, he explains, when the front facade perches two stories and the brick base, with the rear at one level below



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: the Queen Anne's original back porch, apparently never matched by an equally grand addition at the rear of the house. The new kitchen and great room marry 20th-century details with 19th-century flourishes. An open work area of 1,110 sq ft (a winter balcony was designed to evoke wood-paneled inns in the older, times-invested days) is the heart of the house.



the front door, as was the case here. A staircase connected the two floors, but it was dark and cramped, and anyone who did step downstairs and out back found the yard contained not by a garden but by a three-car garage.

As Wilson toured the house, however, he was struck by its Victorian veneer, right down to the foyer's four-panel guilloche millwork, an 1898 interior for more expensive rowhouses. Unlike many city dwellings, the house was detached, bringing in light on both sides and providing room for a narrow drive to the garage. He also noted that although the first floor had better-than-average flow—as the hall and points east, “every room had two ways in and out, which is great for parties”—it was missing a key component of contemporary living: a friendly social gathering

area where everyone wants to spend time.

Wilson soon realized he could greatly extend and widen the house in back, adding enough room on each floor to create that missing piece, as well as a family room for watching TV and a proper music room. Lots of glass would bring light into the back of the house, and repeating woodwork motifs would tie old and new together. “The owners wanted a new-world layout but with old-world details,” says Wilson, who began making an inventory of existing architectural elements that could be rendered and replicated.

Though known for his contemporary aesthetic, Wilson has a soft spot for historic buildings and a deft touch with period details. “He is able to create a warm feeling while being light,” says the husband, who

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY L. HARRIS

floor plans

The 2,000-square-foot home is well preserved from the late 1800s, but the basic floor plan is a stark and dysfunctional one. The original layout, which included a single room 21½ feet square, ignored the house’s two levels of accessible rooms for a large kitchen and grand entrance. Family members follow. On the top floor (not shown), the master bedroom gained space and a walk-in closet.



A desk alcove with a lowered ceiling defines it as a workstation while keeping it a part of the room.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY L. HARRIS

wall defined: painted spaces within the open-plan echo the small, recessed areas of the front of the house. The reading area opposite the fireplace is a niche that originally served as a sitting nook. On the other end of the room, the desk alcove is tucked into a recess where the chimney once stood. Partitioned off by a dropped ceiling, the alcove allows light to disperse without obscuring speakers.

learned about him through journals and liked what he saw in Wilson's online portfolio.

The architect came up with a reason to this case to "fixing up old houses with beautiful formal rooms and adding a clean solution."

First off, the front-facing garage had to go, allowing the yard to extend into a plush carpet. Wilson next proposed digging down 30 inches in back to have enough height for a comfortable family room that would open onto a patio stepped down from the rest of the yard. Above the family room would be a kitchen and great room and a desk, that connecting the back of the house to the outside on two levels.

Alongside the family room there was just enough room to square in a one-car garage. "Lucky they had that driveway," says Jim Simpson, who served as project supervisor for the general contractor, Plath & Company. "It meant we could get an excavator and a Bobcat back there."

Soon, however, his workers encountered a sharp reminder of what they were on land that was close enough to the sea to have once been dunes. To prevent sand from filling the hole as quickly as they dug it, they shored up the sides with plywood and moved quickly to pour footings.

Another concern of the setting was water damage, where the original builders had added metrics for the chimney with what was closest hand. The salty sand proved corrosive. The chimney had to be removed brick by brick. Much newer was adding the back of the house, where two porches had been cobbled onto



dark and light
In the original dining room (above), the remaining fireplace becomes a more dramatic focal point after Dan DeGrazia painted over the mantel. The lower walls and white woodwork reinforce the room's cooler scheme. DeGrazia's painting is a transition to the new rooms.



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You can win
cash and cash
prizes. Submit
your best
before May
15 at
www.hgtv.com.

Painting some of the old and all of the new woodwork white helped blur the line between the two.

Inside and out
isolate from the outside—the rear addition (right) brings light through arched windows and French doors, reconnected to the backyard that is enhanced by the deck off the kitchen and the pass-off the family room (far right). The pastel palette is street-smart and.



year-round rooms. "It was a very clean cut," Singletary says. "We just took them off."

Once the steel-framed addition went up, the challenge was to finish the new spaces so "easily fit with the feeling of the rest of the house," says the lead designer. Drawing from a bag of visual tricks, Wilson created distinct spaces with period styling within the open plan, including a round nook where kids and guests can retreat while staying within the cook's eye. Whimsical, classic built-ins, and a coffered ceiling also help hold old and new.

Today, the family "really lives in the new spaces," says Wilson. "And as the kids are now older, they can spread more time down outside independently but not so far away—there's a new open interest."

But the true goal was a party the homeowners held for their children's school. "There must have been 80 people here, half of them kids," Wilson recalls. Yet the fun flowed from the front of the house to the back, thus downstairs and up—plenty of opportunity to gather spontaneously in known, chosen, and groups. It's a modern way of entertaining—and living—and exactly what the homeowners had hoped for all along. ■

The pros at *This Old House* help you tackle your to-do list

52

DIY fixes for your home's most annoying little ailments

(Yup, that's one for every weekend)

Caring for a home is more like a marathon than a 100-yard dash. Trying to sprint through myriad repairs in the days before you host a dinner party or the in-laws come for a visit only leads to frustration. And, like a winded runner dropping out of a race early, you won't finish. But if you pace yourself, taking on just one project a weekend, you'll always be working with fresh legs. Thanks to the following quick and clever solutions to 52 of your home's most nagging problems, you'll be moving on to more relaxing weekend pursuits in as little as 5 minutes.

By Joni Gensler
Photographs by Ian Spanier

1

Chairs are wearing away the floor finish, and nail smokers work loose in one chair. Hammers in tacks with a flattened belt sander for saving chairs or anything you move around a lot, or rubber pads for sofas and stuff that stays put.



> finishes and furniture

2. **Air bubbles in wallpaper.** If it's less than 2 inches apart and you don't feel any debris inside such as insect crap, you can ignore the standard procedure of peeling and lifting the paper and brushing debris behind it. Instead, use a straight (SS) 10-pint roller to pole a pinhole that releases the air and allows you to paint it adhesive right when it's needed. To get a clean cut in vinyl paper, use a smallish utility knife before inserting the pinholes.

3. **Plaster walls look rough.** Brush on an ultra-fine-grit powder that's unusual—eggshell. The ultra-fine starch helps hide imperfections in the surface; any amount of glossiness reflects light and brightens up.

4. **Old putty holes are glaring black dots.** Dab old holes with a light-weight patching compound. Once dry, smooth with a damp sponge. Dab with sandpaper. There is no dust and no damage to the wall panel.

5. **The cupboard door won't stay shut.** The old prop or rifle latch is worn out or covered with paint. Order a heavy-duty magnetic catch (34¢ rocker arm) and install it so it pulls a couple of pounds. Works great for medicine chests, too.

6. **Scratches are marring the look of woodwork.** Hide marks in furniture trim and faces using fitness markers (\$5 each, various colors; all hardware stores). They provide a smooth stain application.

> windows and doors

9. A double-hung's sash cords have snapped. Pull out the old polyethylene spring-loaded replacement with a retractable saw tape that cuts across the inner cord ends and weights. (Standard balances start at \$39 per pair; pull-down cord.) Watch a video of TDG contractor Tom Silve installing the pulley system of his double-hung combination.

8. Window sash looks bent at the edge. If the mitered corner on the front sash doesn't drop low enough to rest flush with the rear one, the problem may be that the upper sash was parted slightly before being pushed fully against the top rail. To fix it, cut the part until sash sits with a window opening saw.

9. It takes superhuman strength to move the sliding patio door. Chances are, debris has jammed the wheels. Remove the operable door by turning the adjustment screws at the bottom, then clear the wheels and track, and spray with silicone lubricant. Get detailed steps for a patio door tune-up at thisoldhouse.com/curious.

10

Your screens are ripped or rusty.

The hard part of screen replacement is figuring out the size of the spine that holds it in the frame.

Make it easy by measuring the old rubber gasket using an architect's template (\$6, staples.com). The plastic rule has holes that correspond with common spine diameters represented in decimals of an inch, such as .125 and .175.

11. A casement window's crank is stripped or jammed. You could snap the crank cover and attempt to repair, but it's easier and usually more effective to replace the hardware. Select the right crank for your window size and model at sweiss.com.

12. A door swings open or closed on its own. Pull out one of the hinges. If it's a sturdy work surface, and the end of the shaft with a hammer. Then reinsert the pin. You will have bent it slightly, providing enough resistance to prevent this unwanted movement.

13. Painted hinges look bad and squeak. Try this:

Lubricate the hinge with two layers of Lubriplex (available on wood shims) on the door side of the hinge. Remove one hinge at a time and spray the hardware. Listen how to safely remove paint without chemicals using an old screwdriver at thisoldhouse.com/curious.

14. A vintage window pane is cracked. Standard replacement glass won't match the wavy look of the original panes, so you can either swap in a piece from the back of a hardware store and put the new glass there or order a historic reproduction from benham.com. For the how-to on replacing a pane, see thisoldhouse.com/curious.

15. Paint on the door is sticking to the finish on the stop. This "bleeding" can occur when you close a door before the paint has fully dried. Apply wax to temporarily hinder adhesion. To fully sand around the door edges and repaint using 100 percent acrylic latex with good bonding resistance.

> yard, house exterior, and basement

16. The gate steps across the lawn. Pickup Stanley's anti sag set (\$10; lowes.com). Run it out to length, cable from the bottom of the brick side to the top of the fence side, then tighten the center screw buckle to accommodate the drop.

> 14

A window rattles in the wind. The sash lock's cam mechanism is misaligned or broken. To suck a double-hung's sashes together and eliminate rattling—and drafts—remove the center latch and install two new ones instead. Arrange them so that the latches are fully engaged when the cam is turned about halfway.



18

The entry set's deadbolt sticks when you key-in.

The lock needs lubrication, but not with oil, which can attract dirt over time. Squeeze graphite powder to lube the lock without creating future gunk-ups. And while you've got the tube handy, give any other squeaky hinges or sticking locks around the house a squeeze too.

using epoxy-set screws that go all the way through the timber and are secured with a washer and nut. Drilling into the limb is less clanging, then rasping a rope in around it.

25. Horizontal lead in water in the basement. Dismantle their lead to close to the foundation. Extracting ledges at the bottom of down-spouts are trying hardware. So route the water underground. It's still easy to install drywall (thisoldhouse.com/curious) and insulation (thisoldhouse.com/curious).

26. You always forget to turn off the basement light. Set up a First Alert motion detector (\$20; amazon.com) and set it in the fixture and leave the wall switch in the on position. The light will illuminate as soon as anyone approaches. Then automatically turn itself off. The device is also handy in sheds and closets.

27. The leaves in turning brown. This is often due to frequent watering. An easy fix is to tell if your lawn is thirsty. Before it's too late, try to look at it through polarized sunglasses lenses. If it appears blue-green instead of green when it's in direct sunlight turn on the sprinklers.



28. Little cracks in the driveway widen each year. That ubiquitous water gets inside the fissures and freezes, pressing against the asphalt. Come spring, dig out any infiltrating vegetation and dirt, and fill the cracks for good. For asphalt, use a cold pour filler such as QPR Asphalt Filler (\$21; lowes.com). For concrete, use Quikrete Concrete Crack Seal (\$10; acehardware.com), then seal the voids with dry mix.

29. Grass alongside the walkway washes out during big rains. Swap out old pavers for permeable ones, such as those made by Eco-Block. Pores in the surface trap precipitation between pavers allow water to move through the material and the compacted stone and sand below, preventing runoff.

30. The finish has faded from your fence. You don't need to buy a fancy paint sprayer. A \$13 landscape pump sprayer makes easy work of the job.





> kitchen and bath

39. **The butcher block smells like garlic.** Toss out a wood counter top's garlicy solution with 2 cups of bleach and 1 quart of water. To eliminate odors, pour some coarse sea salt onto the surface and scrub it into the wood using the knee of a cutlery.

40. **The mirror tops up when you take a shower.** Treat it with Rem X anti-fog spray (\$4 at auto supply shops), which can reduce steam condensation.

41. **Your toilet racks.** If tightening the bolts on the base doesn't stop it, buy some plastic shims from a hardware store and slide them under the toilet to stabilize it.

42. **You're tired of flashing the neighbors.** Rather than leave the bathroom blinds closed at all times, apply an adhesive window film (\$75 to \$15 per roll, though) over the windows. It'll create privacy without blocking natural light.

33

Your stainless steel is covered with watermarks. Forget about pricey products specifically designed for stainless, and grab your WD-40 from the utility closet. It will remove and repel fingerprints, watermarks, and stains. Just be sure to wipe away excess with a cloth.

34. **The grout cracking in the tiled shower.** This comes due to house settling or grout that was never sealed, allowing water to get in and break it down. Scrape out the old grout and replace it with Durock Six-Crete premium grout (\$29 for a 9-pound bucket) from Home Depot. It's more flexible and eliminates the need for sealing.

35. **Laminate kitchen counter top edge banding is peeling.** Brush contact cement onto the laminate and the substrate, wait until dry. Then press the laminate in place and clamp it tight using blue painter's tape.

37. **Your beloved vintage medicine chest mirror barely stands a reflection.** Remove the glass from the cabinet door, strip the old covering from the back, and use a silversmith's file to make it shiny again. Just take note: This is an exacting job and requires a file with a cheap (\$176, amazonsupply.com) diamond-coated mirror.

38. **The grout is stained around the tiles.** You can remove stains by bleaching with a poultice—but that can leave the grout color uneven. Hide that problem by darkening off the grout with a grout colorant in a soft gray or beige hue.

39

The bathtub faucet is wacky. You've got to remove every last old gasket so that the new material forms a seal against the tub and tile. If metal washers break, mold will form around them, making them impossible to plug in. Use a 5-in-1 tool and a plastic or bronze nut, and easily remove老化任何剩余的密封带。Then apply new acrylic-based caulk containing mildewcides.

40. **The heat mat under the tile floor warms up too slowly.** Connect the mat to a programmable thermostat so that the first person awake in the morning doesn't feel cold feet.

41. **There are mold spots on the bathroom ceiling.** Replace the wall switch for your exhaust fan with a mechanical timer and set it to stay on for 30 to 60 minutes after everyone leaves.

> electrical and plumbing

42. **Your two-prong outlets won't accept plugs for new electronics.** If you tried to wire them using three-prong systems, have this motor-wrapped wiring. The heating can provide ground, allowing you to swap in a three-prong outlet. But that wayways it your home's electrical system is grounded. To be safe, just swap the outlet for a GFCI one.

43. **A single-lever faucet is dripping.** Turn off the water and remove the faucet from the sink. Then unscrew the O ring encircling the faucet. This isn't a cure, but it'll stop the drip until you get a new O ring—or an endearment.

44. **You're always fumbling in the dark.** It hasn't got a standard outlet in the room, and a wireless one for a table

lamp. Lookin' elsewhere (switches.com) has inexpensive decaps that allow you to move the fixture's plug-and-a-half battery-powered switch that mounts to the wall.

45. **A radiator isn't getting hot.** Pipes or not may be leaking the blower valve. Try to turn the valve clockwise to stuff it back in. If that's not the case, use a wrench to gently work the screwdriver and turn until open. Then take your set screw out so that the radiator will fill with hot water again.

46. **A compression faucet has a slow drip.** With the water shut off, unscrew the faucet completely, turn on the valve, instantly turn it off, then close the faucet again. This will realign the valve so that it will close fully.

47. **The wall outlet shifts when you plug in your computer.** This happens when the outlet isn't anchored tightly between the metal back and the cover plate. Lock it in place using plastic electrical outlet spacers (\$3, thehardwarestore.com) that work like shims to bring the outlet flush with the wall.

48. **Water pipes bang when the washer kicks on and off.** Start the search for a check valve. Pipe bangers keep the supply line in the basement to ensure no loose sections. Wrap pipe insulation around where they penetrate floors or walls.

49

A switch cover keeps coming loose. Get longer cover screws at the home center. For ones in decorative finishes, such as the antiqued bronze screws shown here, try ikyledesigns.com.



50

The light hums when it's dimmed. Dimmers work by flickering lights on and off so fast that we perceive less illumination, but that can cause the filament to vibrate. Upgrade to rough service bulbs, which have stronger filament supports. Find them at thelightbulbstore.net.

all the replacement parts and instructions you need to stop the gurgling.

51. **Water pipes bang when the washer kicks on and off.** Start the search for a check valve. Pipe bangers keep the supply line in the basement to ensure no loose sections. Wrap pipe insulation around where they penetrate floors or walls.

52. **A set of ganged light switches isn't aligning with the cover.** Loosening the screws driving the switches and right-aligning the screws is doing it the hardway. Just place a flathead screwdriver against the attachment below the switch you want to adjust and gently wiggle with a hammer. ■

36

A towel rack is loose. Only the most meticulous homeowners save the little hex keys that come with their hardware. So buy yourself a \$13 Allen wrench set. Before tightening the setscrew, remove it and apply a dab of Loctite Threadlocker Blue 242 (\$6, homedepot.com), which will hold it in place—without preventing removal later on.



Photo: iStockphoto.com/Alamy Stock Photo



ALL ABOUT

Garage doors

No longer an afterthought, they're stronger, more weathertight, and brimming with character. The experts at This Old House help you pick a new garage door to complement your home. By Jim Garrison

Move over, front door: the garage door has become America's favorite entryway. For better or worse, we're more likely to go in and out of our homes with the click of a remote than the turn of a key.

Unlike the detached one-car structures found at the end of driveways 50 years ago, today's two- and three-bay garages have migrated into the home's footprint. They occupy a prominent chunk of prime visual real estate as well; about 33 percent of all single-family homes decade ago, for many years garage doors outsold stock in the Dodge Door era, just blonde slabs of stamped steel or pressed plywood.

That began to change about 10 years ago as custom manufacturers began adding carriage-house-door details, such as X-shaped latticework and decorative hardware, to most the hinges and handles and on entry doors. It was a design evolution that has since filtered down to home owners, where you can now get distinctive garage doors in wood, steel, fiberglass, vinyl—even glass—to match almost any architectural style, including ones that predate the auto.

So if your garage is due for a face-lift, read on for tips on picking the right door type, material, and look for your home and budget. It's an upgrade you'll appreciate with every click of that remote.



Anatomy of a garage door

A standard door: the most common variety, sold square-foot by door manufacturer.



VITALS

What's it cost? For steel and wood, the two most popular materials, expect to pay \$200 to \$2,500 and \$1,300 to \$10,000 respectively. Prices don't include installation.

Do it yourself? While some makers sell directly to homeowners, installation can be dangerous and should be left to pros.



How long will they last?

Wood doors on average last 15 years, and materials cost \$100. Steel doors range from one year for some wood doors to 20-plus for some steel ones.

How much care?

It depends on the material and its exposure to the elements. Wood requires regular re-coating to prevent decay. Steel only needs repainting if it rusts. Fiberglass and vinyl can be painted if they fade; vinyl needs only an occasional washing. Here's how to inspect the mechanical parts annually.

Material matters

A door's appearance, cost, durability, and energy efficiency depend on what it's made of.

Metal Strong, long-lasting, and virtually maintenance-free, steel is the most popular option—and comes in a wide variety of styles. Metal looks terrific in remote locations. Look for dent-resistant 24-gauge sections. Aluminum is light and doesn't rust, but it's more prone to insulation doors can have R values as high as 27. Prices range from \$250 to \$2,500.

Wood Offers the widest selection of styles, shapes, and decorative add-ons. Paint-grade doors often use mahogany-wood and wood-fiber boards. Stain-grade doors are built of solid stock. Requires the most maintenance. Garage insulated to R-30. With prices up to \$10,000, wood is usually the most costly option.

Fiberglass or vinyl Fiberglass can look like painted or stained wood, but it's not heavy, won't decay, and doesn't burn or rust like wood. Vinyl doors have a stabilizer core that provides great insulation. Design options for either material are limited. Colors are subject to fading, but these doors can be repainted or stained. Good over the seashore, but they may crack in cold weather. Both can be insulated to R-12. Fiberglass starts at \$6,500; vinyl at \$600.

Composite Cellulose fibers fused with resin create a material that won't warp, wavy, or rot like wood, nor rust or dent like metal. Each section has its own core for stiffness and insulation. This low-maintenance material is about as firm as wood and doesn't can. Can be insulated to R-8. Prices start around \$1,500.

Glass Practical tempered glass (or a tough plastic) mounted on wind-proof aluminum frames garages with light. Choose clear, frosted, or opaque single-pane or double-pane panels. Wood-clad frames also are available. Because of their weight, glass doors require heavy-duty springs. The R value for male pane glass is a minuscule 1.5; double-pane glazing is R-4. Prices are similar to composite doors.

TYPES OF DOORS

IT'S ALL ABOUT HOW THEY MOVE. MOST GO UP AND DOWN, BUT YOU CAN ALSO GET GARAGE DOORS THAT SWING, SLIDE, OR FOLD.

SECTIONAL

The most popular type, these doors have horizontal hinged sections that roll straight up and then back along the garage ceiling, often assisted by a spring-balanced motorized door opener. One-hp. horsepower door openers raise it door weighing as much as 1,000 pounds and opening 20 feet. Installation: lifting seals out the windows.



SWING OUT

These doors swing from hinges on either side of the frame. To reduce sagging, swing doors must be at least 10 feet taller than it is wide. Best for mid-size homes because narrow doors will prevent them from opening. Can be operated manually or with a special remote control. Good at sealing out the weather.



SLIDING

Like barn doors, these swing from rollers that ride along a track at the top of the opening. Doors swing this way either with a motorized gear system or with a remote. Track height is about twice the door width. This is the best weatherstripping garage door.



BIFOLD

Like closet doors, pairs of hinged vertical sections fold back against the sides of the opening. Bifolds aren't as strong as swing-out doors and don't open out as far, but one benefit is that they prevent them from sprawling. Most homeowners prefer this instead of screen doors. Cost: \$1,500 to \$10,000.



Get the right look

New design options make it easier than ever to pick a garage door that fits with your home's style.

CLASSIC

Landing like the front entrance, this door is in tune with the classic exterior. It's made of wood and is available in a Beech panelled door or a traditional Shaker. Choose from vertical or horizontal slats with insulating cores up to R-10. \$1,400, garageplus.com



TRADITIONAL

Wood-grain fiber doors with distressed light stains and horizontal panels have the look of real wood. Shaker and Beech panelled doors are also available. Classic model CO200C, with five horizontal slats, has been redesigned, starting at \$3,500. midwest-door.com

Asian-tone colors, such as high-lights (the extreme) or shapes popular in the Arts-and-Crafts-style architecture. Shaker panelled doors are now CE42, sectional insulated door with composite insulating cores. \$1,400, garageplus.com



CLASSIC

From clear, temperate, and decorative nailheads, these doors come in classic Spanish Colonial-style entry doors. Shaker Mid-Terrace Collection model HD500N, sectional in white (\$4,500), sunmetaldoor.com



MODERN

From clear, temperate, and decorative nailheads, these doors come in classic Spanish Colonial-style entry doors. Shaker Mid-Terrace Collection model HD500N, sectional in white (\$4,500), sunmetaldoor.com

MODERN

This industrial-style, with its distinctive rough-sawn wood, costs \$1,500 for an equity-insulated residential garage door. Shaker Mid-Terrace Mid-Size-Gate Co. model X3200, insulated model with thermal boardback, \$3,000, sunmetaldoor.com



[askthisoldhouse](#)

Inside

DOOR SWAP

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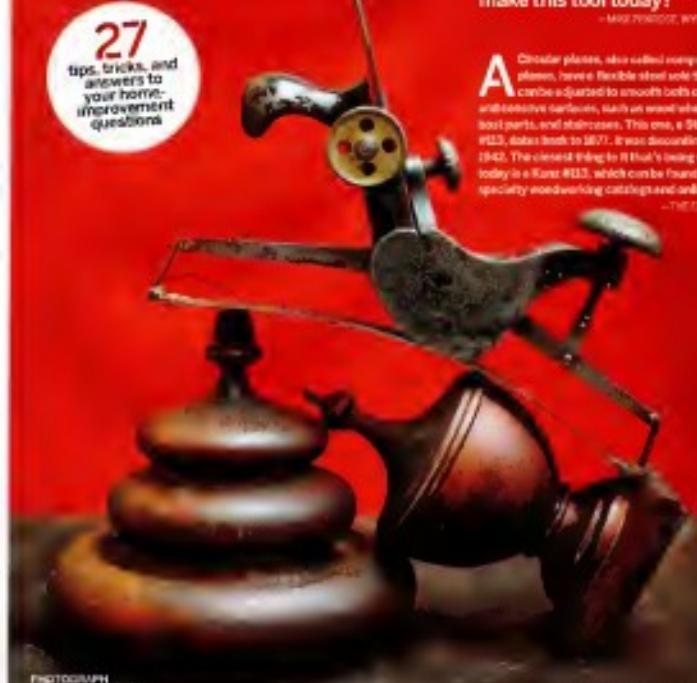
4

Q My dad used an antique circular plane to build rocking chairs. Do they still make this tool today?

ANSWER KEY

A Circular plates, also called hoopstress plates, have a flexible sheet sold that can be adjusted to smooth both convex and concave surfaces, such as wood-wheels, boat parts, and staircases. This one, a Stanley #123, dates back to 1917. It was discontinued in 1942. The closest thing to it that's being made today is a Kutz #633, which can be found in specialty woodworking catalogs and online.

-700-700



PHOTOGRAPH

• Our cast of veteran experts



TOM SILVIA
General Contractor

HOWARD JOHNSON
Master Carpenter

RICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating Expert

ROGER COOK
Landscaping Contractor

RICHARD CONNORS
Patio

Can you give us some advice about replacing our existing steel entry door with an old wood door? Also, should we install a storm door to protect it?

BRITACREY, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO



Tom Silvia replies: Finding an old door is good because it's more durable than your wood one that suits the style of your house and in the right size and price.

The first thing to check is the thickness of the existing door. You don't want your "new" door to be any thicker than that. If it is, you'll have to alter or replace the jamb and possibly the threshold as well, and that's a big job.

Next, measure the existing door's height and width. Your wood door can be made in 1-inch taller and 1/8-inch wider; it's not hard to trim down. You should be able to take 1/8 inch off the top rail and 1/8 inch off the bottom rail without compromising the joints between the stiles and rails.

If you have to trim the door's width, make your cut only on the hinge-side side. Otherwise you'll have to reposition the door's locks. Even if the side doesn't need to be trimmed, you'll probably have to fill and resurface the mortise on the jamb to catch up with the old door's edges.

Howard Johnson replies: Get ready to trim a wood entry door to fit its new opening. Any cuts to viewpoints should be made on the hinge side to avoid having to reset the lockset on the new door side.

PHOTO BY HOWARD JOHNSON; STYLING BY JENNIFER SCHAFFNER; SET STYLING AND PROPS BY KAREN MCKEE

A wood door isn't suitable than the existing opening can be widened by 1/8 inch or so and lengthened up to 6 inches by taking slugs of wood to the door's edges. When you do that to a door, you'll need to hide the added panels under a coat of paint. Finally, you'll almost certainly have to replace your weatherstripping. The type used on steel doors is often extreme, which doesn't seal well against wood.

Once you find the right entry door, then yes, you should get a storm door. It will protect the wood from the weather and save energy.

• HIDING FLOOR GAPS

The Building Institute of America replies: Putting away the threshold it bats into at one end of the hall, leaving an unsightly gap. What can we do to prevent this from happening?

—PAUL CHURCH FERGUSON, MD

- A - Blanket screen for plant valances
- B - Clip-on step-ladder tray
- C - Delta guard for gutters
- D - Deck

PHOTO BY ANTHONY TIGHE; STYLING BY KAREN MCKEE

Howard Abram replies: You can do anything to prevent your floating floor from expanding and contracting. But you can hide the movement by slipping the ends of the floating floor into a trench, or rubber, cut into the underside of a new threshold. The rubber should be 1/8 inch deep and slightly higher than the thickness of the floating so that can move easily.

Because your floating is already in place, pry up the old threshold and itself a new one that's wide enough and thick enough so as to accommodate the rubber. The floating should probably extend over the rubber about 1/4 inch, which would allow it to move without bending against the threshold or revealing a gap. There are guidelines; make sure to use the usual expansion-gap dimensions specified by the floating manufacturer.



WHAT IS IT?

Foggy condensation between the panes of a double-pane window indicates that the seal around the edges of the panes has failed. While slightly, the condition does not have a significant effect on insulation or energy performance.

• DOUBLE-PANE WINDOW SEALS

A contractor recently told us that our 20-year-old double-pane windows are "defective" because condensation is forming inside the panes in spite of their "double-pane" status. Do slightly fogged windows really make a big difference in keeping your house warm?

—DONALD LEE, LAMBERTVILLE, NJ

gas-filled space." Yours are probably too old to have such upgrades.

Barrie Lee: A foggy pane or two will have no discernible effect on your heating bill. Should you want a clear view, you'll have to replace either the glass out or the rubber—your least expensive options—or the entire window.

REDIRECTING FLOOR VENTS

I have the perfect spot to build a window seat, with bookcases on either side. However, there's a built-in vent that sits here. What's the best way to cover it?

—MILTON COOMBS, WILMINGTON, DE

Kevin O'Connor replies: Unless the glass has cracked, it sounds as if the sealant around the edge of the new glass pane has failed and allowed moist air to get in and condense on the inner surface. It's something that can happen to any double-pane window.

Fortunately, in your case, it's merely a cosmetic issue, according to John Lewis of the National Fenestration Rating Council. "Seal failure does not greatly impact thermal performance," he says, "particularly on units without low-e coatings or a

low-emissivity coating."

It's a quick and inexpensive way to do it; a local vendor often

Make the 4-inch high platform that typically supports the cabinets deep enough to completely surround the regimen. Then use 4-inch-high blocking behind and beside each unit so that behind me will be diverted inward toward the stool. In truth the posts around the blocking will be taller than their adjacent, such as RCD's 6½-inch-joint-squares, causing pressure from blocking to other or outward the cabinet. Other materials might get brittle and crack in the heat. Cut a rectangular hole in the stool to let air into the room, and cover with a meshed air register.

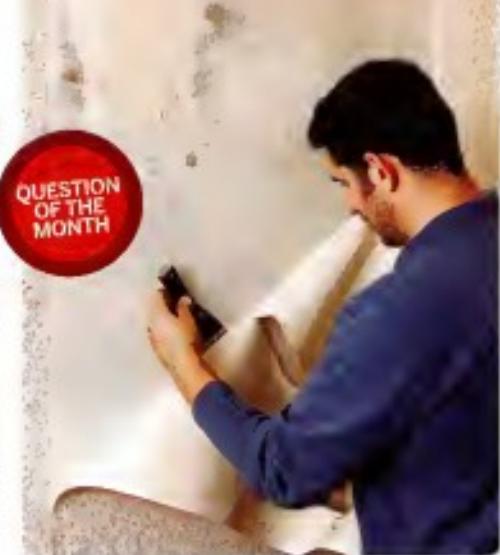
While this technique was standard procedure for many years, local codes may require you to install metal ductwork so that hot air doesn't contact the wood in boxes. If that's the case, you'll need to measure the existing register and buy a suit angular 90-degree sheet-metal stock elbow, which will fit home owners for about \$16. The one you want is sometimes called a "short-way elbow." A long-way elbow wouldn't fit in a stool.

Secure one end to the existing duct work with sheet-metal screws or aluminum duct-sealing tape; then move or replace the other end to the back side of the stool. Make sure everything is sealed and secure before you install the cabinets, because you can't adjust the elbow afterward.

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any expense incurred in sending
the answer or in its removal. We are unable to
type unsolicited questions.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Q I'd like to paint my kitchen, but I have to remove the wallpaper first. How do I do it? —KENNETH HORN, TRUMBULL, CT

Rich O'Neill, painting contractor and owner, Masterwork Painting & Restoration, replies: Removing old wallpaper is an easy project for most homeowners—and well worth the trouble. You just cannot get a clean-looking surface if you leave the paper in place and put

paint or new vs. paper orastic. If you're lucky enough to have "strippable" wallpaper, all you have to do is grab a corner and pull off whole sheets. But if the paper sticks stubbornly to the wall, you'll have to dampen the surface with a concentrated, enzyme-based wallpaper remover that breaks down the adhesive holding it to the wall. With a sprayer soaking, wallpaper will come off in large sheets, not bits and pieces, and before you know it the whole room will be a blank slate ready to be covered with the finish of your choice.

Cost: \$75 for tools and materials

Timeline: 1 hour per room (average 25 to 30 square feet of paper)

Difficulty: Easy, but messy

STEP BY STEP Strip wallpaper

1. Prep the walls

Strip off the electric wires at the circuit breaker. Remove old insulation and plastic plates on the wall, and cover the openings with 2x4s and paper tape. Tape a plastic sheet to the top edge of the baseboard to protect the trim and floor. Roll a sprayer soaked over the paper in overlapping circles, making sure you're getting adhesive remover to penetrate. Allow for 10 performances per square foot.



4. Scrape off the glue

Adhesive residue prevents new wallpaper from achieving a tight bond against the panel. Get rid of it by removing a 3-foot section of wall without removing insulation and scraping the residue off with a putty knife or with drywall taping knife.

2. Dampen the wall

Following the directions on the bottle, mix wallpaper removing compound (such as Dr. Web) and water to remove off-wall water. You'll need about 2 gallons of solution to treat 100 square feet of wall. Pour the solution into a pump sprayer and spray the wall from the bottom up along the surface until lifting. Work around the room three times. The paper should bubble in about 5 minutes.



5. Wash the wall

Immediately after scraping off the residue, wash the insulation with water and a sponge mop. Continue this around the room until all the walls have been scraped and washed three times to bottoms.

3. Peel back the wallpaper Use a ladder to dull the sharp corners of a metal utility ender so that it won't gouge. Work the ladder behind the paper to keep edges where the panels meet and press the corner down the wall. If paper sticks to the wall, soak it again before scraping. Place the stripped pieces in a garbage can so that they won't slip on them.



6. Test for trace adhesive

You can check for residual wallpaper adhesive by spraying the wall with a mix of 3 parts water and 1 ounce powdered borax, which will turn any adhesive residue purple. Use denatured alcohol or liquid soap to remove these spots. Let the walls dry for 24 hours, then seal them with an oil-based primer.

READER TOOL TEST

No-hose brad nailers

Pneumatic nailers make installing molding as easy as pulling the trigger—or faster and easier than pounding nails with a hammer. The air-powered nailers rely on “fuel cells” or motors to drive a piston that tanks 20 gauge brads so there’s no compressor or air storage in hose. Here’s what This Old House readers had to say about the latest namer models. —SA, RADUSA

SEINCO FUSION FN55AX

Price: \$390
Highlight: Shoots brads instantly no wait for the motor to ramp up. Meets no-nail rules.



Testor Anthony Shaffer, Traverse City, Mich.
Used level-Pro ("I'm a trim carpenter")



*Readers
80 percent
choose this
model*

DEWALT DC650BK

Price: \$220
Highlight: Needs no fuel cell. Uses a motor-driven piston to drive nails. Has the best warranty.



Testor Lauren Petty,
Roseville,
Mich.
Used level-Average
Diver

Used tool 10+ Available
pro-trades

My two cents: I like it work well without all the clutter of hoses. Much better than a compressor! **Total stats:** 7.6 pounds, 10-volt lithium ion battery with 60-minute charger holds 110 shots. 1/4-in.2 inch-long drives 8002 2.5 cent mils per minute. Runs for over 40 seconds. Includes adjustable drive depth, single or sequential nailing, three-year tool warranty.



Courtesy photo, DeWalt. Used tool purchased by Testor Lauren Petty.

HITACHI NT50GS

Price: \$300
Highlight: It's the lightest of the bunch.



Testor Gary Burns,
Rancho N. Mtn.,
Calif.
Used level-Pro
Used tool for Building
out cabinets and
shutters

My two cents: One of the few tools that actually converts into iron-hand for nail guns!

Total stats: 4 pounds, 10-volt lithium ion battery with 60-minute charger holds 100 shots. 1/4-in.2 inch-long drives 2,000 2.5 cent mils per minute. 2,000 per hour. Second inclusion: adjustable drive depth, single or sequential nailing, one-year tool warranty. ■



Courtesy photo, Hitachi. Used tool purchased by Testor Gary Burns.

Want to be a tester? Let us know where you'd like to test and the project you'd use it on by e-mailing us at tohtester@thisoldhouse.com.

Photo based on manufacturer-provided statistics



PASLODE 901000

Price: \$390
Highlight: Drives the most nail per charge.



Testor Michael Verardo,
Milan, Mich.
Skill tool/Drilling/Diver
Used tool for Dressing up a fireplace surround with a pine bough
My two cents: The reader is
genius and very balanced! ■

Total stats: 5 pounds, 6-volt nickel battery with 120 minute charger holds 300 mils. 1/4-in.2 inch-long drives 1,200 2.5 cent mils per fuel cell. 4,000 per hour. Two to three per second. Includes adjustable drive depth, single or sequential nailing, one-year tool warranty. ■



Courtesy photo, Paslode. Used tool purchased by Testor Michael Verardo.

Marketplace

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100 APPLIANCES

1. CUISINART/MASTER CLASSIC/MASTER CLASSIC Master Classic heating and cooling units up to 80% energy savings and fast heat pump. Perfect for existing base price per each. **20%** off total retail value.

2. GE APPLIANCES & LIGHTING GE Appliances and Lighting makes it easy for consumers to reduce the look of their home with innovative and energy-efficient appliances and lighting products.

203 AUTOMOTIVE

3. FORD F-150 The next F-150 has arrived and from a designer that's been on driving to revolutionizing vehicles—it's the Fougard F-150.

4. KMC SPHERA Premium series steel Podek-style wheels. KMC Sphera comes in several sizes. Whether it's putting on a new car or cold-weather use of course, KMC Sphera is it makes the best sense.

5. YAMAHA ARABIAN Introducing the latest in fine leather. Angle spaces, including some rooms and an extremely limited run. The New Royal Arabian. Contact in books.

203 BUILDING PRODUCTS

6. ORI METROW ORI Metrow is an on/off, on time/reverse that measures in digital paper, manual, time, and reverse, and produces fits for frame and header applications.

7. SEACOAST STONE Seacoast Stone, the most popular brand of natural stone veneer in the industry, is eco-friendly, recyclable and reusable to create sustainable interior and exterior spaces. Visit seacoaststone.com or seacoaststone.com for more information. **20%** off.

8. SHAWF STUFF INSULATING FOAM SEALANT **SHAWF STUFF®** Insulating Foam Sealant is designed to fit most insulation gaps, cracks, recessed recessions, electrical wiring and other items where conventional sealants won't stick.

9. JAMES HARDIE BOARD Engineered by Climate™ stands up to the elements regardless of location or thickness of the insulation. No tools, power or water required.

10. QUANTITEK With over 200 products, QUANTITEK has solved problems for all types of applications from industrial to residential projects. For others and individuals, visit our website.

11. WESTERN RED CEDAR LUMBER ASSOC. The Western Red Cedar Association offers extensive resources on species eg. available redwood Western Red Cedar at no charge to you.

204 FINANCIAL SERVICES/IRRA/ESTATE

12. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS Looking for resources you can use as investors and enhance your home's value? Visit [realtor.org](http://www.realtor.org) to view the National Association of Realtors®.

13. STATE FARMS We have understand your insurance and financial needs. Please review our page [statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com) for more information. We have where you live. ■

205 FLORISTS

14. AMERICAN LAMINATING & WRAPS Look. Listen. Learn. Use. The American Laminating & Wrapping Company has a range of products for your business including multi-stage coiling and laminating for more.

15. LAMINATE LIQUIDATORS Just like liquidators, outlet stores or liquidators of flooring. They offer a variety of brands including laminate.

206 HOME FURNISHINGS/DESIGN

16. LA-Z-BOY FURNITURE IN 3-D Bring your dreams to life by visiting furniture including, furniture, armchairs, ottomans, floor and panel walls, the new LA-Z-BOY Room Planner. And lots more of our website.

207 KITCHEN

CROWN POINT Family owned and operated, Crown Point Cabinets has been serving the area since 1978. We specialize in solid wood, custom cabinetry for kitchen, bathroom, laundry, and more. **20%** off total retail value.

17. THE IRON HORSE GROUP The Iron Horse Group is more than a story. It's where you'll find the best horse to get you home improved prices done right.

208 LAWN/HAMMOCK, POOL/SPA/PIVOT

18. GARDEN CABIN Cabin Cabin is the leader in premium outdoor equipment self-repairer products including wall shelves, rolling shelving, sun room, deck railings, and more.

19. TREC'S DIY Transcend Decking and Railing. TREC'S Transcend Series is the original deck railing system. Built Techy. Avail in 35-plus colors. Reinforced against fading and staining.

210 PAINT/STAIN

20. EARTH PAINTS A moist soil paint in one 20-HZ Polymer Plus Ultra®. Intensity is the latest innovation from Earth Paints.

21. DAP Protect your home with DAP's 3-in-1 weatherstripping. It's ready-for-winter expansion in 3 minutes. Protects the 24 hours around the clock. **20%** off. It's all you need to know.

22. MINWAX As Minwax, we're always working to bring you the best products for your projects and looking for better ways to beautify greater and greater wood. Visit our website today.

23. LATICRETE Protect your home with DAP's Laticrete. When properly奎特ed to masonry—shower and garage floors. For residential use or in or out doors, you can't go wrong.

212 PLUMBING FIXTURES/KITCHEN/BATH

24. OHLA OHLA's top facets are one piece polished stainless steel per 1-mm thickness. Custom design. Visit our website for more information.

25. BARN SIGHT ELECTRIC The original barn light fixture. Free ship. Easy-to-set Barn Light fixture.

26. EXCELSIOR

27. GARDEN DECORATIONS Inspire. Encourage. Refresh. White and purple.

28. HOUSE OF ANTIQUE MASTERS

29. HYDRO SYSTEMS Hydro system of your dreams.

30. THERM-A-IRON CASTER

31. WOODS Woods Authentic panel wallcovering, paneling, and trim.

32. ANTHONY'S LEFT

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33. DIRECT OBJECTS Giveaway members get direct from the source or via our virtually anything for the home. Direct and to D mailing lists come free.

34. KIRK'S The Kitchen Kitchen & Bath Annex. A full developed exclusively to the Kitchen and bath industry.

35. TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

36. SCOTT'S TOACH TAPE Scott's Toach Tape straight strength-and-tensile for marine applications. Perfect for marine, boat, and other projects. Built-in adhesive. Built-in tape.

37. STANLEY 3-D 1 TEMPO FLASHLIGHT

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38. WINBOW DOORS & DOORS

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RESOURCES

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39. REAMERS

Reamers are developed stock config.

40. BARN SIGHT

The original barn light fixture.

41. PROPSHIPS

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42. EXCELSIOR

Custom made cabinet supplies.

43. REGGOS

Reggoss' Reversible door mats and seat pads.

44. RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS/PLAQUEWORKS

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45. REINFORCED

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46. SHUTTER MANS

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47. AVANTAGE PRO-PLUS SYSTEM

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48. SUPPLYMANUFACTURE

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49. VERMONT HIDE

Leather, faux, and vinyl products.

50. VODEN HBA

Color number paneling.

This Old House blueprint

Events, Promotions,
Advertiser Product News, Etc.

Fujitsu



Fujitsu General's new ductless mini split heat pump and air conditioner are easy to install, quiet and energy efficient. Fujitsu's systems could cut your utility bill by up to 25%. Heater cool up to 2 individual zones for year-round whole home comfort. [fujitush10.com](http://bit.ly/HFHV10)

Event Spotlight

Auburndale Project Wraps



For its 2010 launch, This Old House TV helped a curb appeal expert transform a ho-hum house along the famed Charles River into an architectural thing of beauty with enhanced ever views and an expanded kitchen and bright, solar interiors.



We gratefully acknowledge our Habitat for Humanity partners and project home partners:



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An advertisement for Godinger Glass. At the top is a dark, ornate chandelier. Below it, the company name "GODINGER GLASS" is written in a stylized, gold-colored font inside a decorative border. Underneath the name, the text "MANUFACTURERS OF FINE GLASS" and "LUMINIFER PLATES & GLASSWARE" is printed. To the left of the text is a photograph of a kitchen interior with a white tiled backsplash, a wooden table, and various pieces of Godinger Glassware. To the right is a vertical column of three different glass items: a clear glass vase with a decorative base, a small glass figurine of a person, and a large, squat glass vessel with a dark, textured base.



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The history: A lot of life was lived in this pink Folk Victorian farmhouse nestled among the rolling hills and meandering stone fence walls in Washington County, Kentucky. Built circa 1883, it's remembered mostly as home to the Reed family, who lived there from the 1940s until Marlene Yeast bought it at \$64,000 in 1990. Mrs. Yeast gave birth to eight children here. The family raised cows and horses and kept them out back in a mold-beam-frame barn; previous owners once stored tobacco there. After Mrs. Yeast's passing, the house sat empty until 2021, when it was sold to its current owner.

Why save it? The three-bedroom house is surrounded by historic stone fences thought to have been built by 18th-century Kentucky migrants.

Original interior details include board-and-batten doors, built-ins, and vintage poplar millwork.

What it needs:

The only bathroom has been updated, but not the kitchen. The house needs an HVAC system and insulation. Whether to freshen up the pink paint or return the house to its original style is entirely your call.

—ADITA PABOLI



1. The house retains its original windows and most of the grape-vined rooms except for its three porches. 2. A photo of the house in 2002. 3. The house comes with about 10 acres of land—not a barn. It is located approximately 40 miles from Lexington. 4. While not original, this living room mantelpiece looks right at home. 5. The kitchen island is working double duty and doubles as a prep counter, which is an unusual request.

got a house to save?

We may include it in our upcoming issue on historic houses. Send photos and a brief description to contests@thisoldhouse.com.



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